

CODE BLUE: Facing up to the hospital shutdowns

CANADA'S

WEEKLY NEWSMAGAZINE

Maclean's

MARCH 17, 1997



THE FIGHT FOR TORONTO

ESSAY

A metropolis
with the mind
of a village'

By Robert Fulford

A plan to create
a mega-city
has sparked
a passionate
debate



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Maclean's CANADA'S WEEKLY NEWSMAGAZINE

This Week

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The fight for Toronto

Angry over Ontario's plans to unify six local municipalities into a megacity of 2.3 million people, the citizens of Toronto have reacted with an explosion of political action. It may be the city the rest of Canada loves to hate, but Torontonians like Toronto and the way it is.



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A panel recommends the closure or modification of almost every Toronto hospital containing a ward that has hit several other provinces' belt-pi deficit-reduction



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Driven
by design

It trails GM and Ford in revenues, but Chrysler Corp. leads the auto industry in profitability. A major reason is the popularity of its cars.



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A visual feast
from the East

Klieg lights are shining on *Ajanta Canada* with the growing production of movies and TV series—including *One Hour Has 27 Minutes*, starring Mary MacLach-

From The Editor

The greening of 'Taranna'



It is a city that is home to some of the nation's largest corporations, but where residents are required to shovel their own sidewalks after a snow storm, or face a \$65 fine. It is a place where waving stands of pampas grass grow as tall as a barn in deep ravines within walking distance of the towers of glass and steel. It is a metropolis of ramification that is also home to some of the finest writers in the English language. It is a town that the American writer Don Passes called "a beauty place." Manitoba, denounced as "a backwater" and water and urban expert Jane Jacobs, a resident, celebrates as "the most hopeful and healthy city in North America."

It is Toronto the Good, the town that seems to unify the rest of the country in opposition simply because it exists. And in recent weeks, residents of the town that has long been embroiled in a passionate debate about the size and scope of their future—all of that brought on by a provincial government that is determined to reduce costs by fiddling with municipalities, including Toronto, into a metropolis that would have a larger population than six provinces (page 40).

It is all part of the attempt by the Conservative government of Premier Mike Harris to get controversial policies in place by the end of the year, so as to allow two years of "good news" leading up to the next election call. Last week's announcement that 10 Toronto hospitals will close is part of that agenda, so is a plan to transfer more of the costs of social programs to the city. What the Harris government has managed to do, however,

is to unite a coalition of otherwise disparate interests against the amalgamation plan. The chief reason has nothing to do with the plan itself: some features have obvious merit—especially including the elimination of duplicated services and local pols who seem to be nothing better than building monuments in their own shallow image. What the opposition is all about is preserving a sense of time and place. Torontonians are convinced that the 'vines are moving too quickly and that the hinter-skitter style of the government—and their apparent disdain for people who live in the city—threaten the long tradition of protecting strong local neighborhoods from the powers and shortcomings.

Even outsiders—say, people who have lived in Toronto for a dozen years—have come to respect and enjoy the Toronto way. Unlike many major cities in North America, the city enjoys a livable—and livelier—downtown with residential neighborhoods a walk away from the CN Tower. Unlike Calgary or Ottawa, where city core streets are deserted after dark, Toronto bustles with life. There is, moreover, that special sense, as writer Robert Fulford puts it, of "big city that doesn't feel being little." Edginess smells. It's a metropolis with the kind of place where people clean their own sidewalks when it snows.

Robert Fulford



Toronto Mayor Barbara Hall at home, sewing a place mat

Newsroom Notes:

Toronto the Good

Author and columnist Robert Fulford, whose essay opens this week's cover package on Toronto, writes regularly about the city in *Toronto Life*, and is the author of *Academia City: an elegant book on the transformation of Toronto*. "It's a city I've always dreamed of living in."



Dexter: Portland, Maine: city of dreams



he says, referring to the cosmopolitan mix of cultures, cuisines and cultures. A supporter of the controversial amalgamation plan, Fulford insists that "Torontonians will never lose their strong commitment to local neighborhoods." "It's too much pleasure for that."

For Senior Writer Joe Chodat, preparing his report on the megacity debate took him on a stroll with Toronto Mayor Barbara Hall in her neighborhood and into a meeting where he ran into two old university friends. After returning to a local pub, says Chodat, they "talked about...what else?...the megacity. It made me feel, for a while anyway, like I was living in a small town."



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*Refresher Fellow,
Book St. Marks, Ont. K6*

You manage to make a business event of some importance read like a cheap thriller. One can almost hear the sound track race in the background, as the camera swoops in for a close-up of that "graygate" skin. The simple, jazzy sentences capture the scene, while slightly easing loose rules of grammar and style.

*Geoffrey McIver
Syracuse, N.Y. 13210*

Keeping in touch

In light of recent threats to the Canadian Lepidopter industry, I feel that Maclean's is a valuable resource for Canadian exporters to keep up with the issues. It is a shame that information from a distinctly Canadian perspective may be disregarded. Mail from Canada can take anywhere from three weeks to months to reach me, and I have little access to English-speaking news sources other than American options. As a Canadian working in Turkey, I feel in touch with my nationality, thanks to this magazine.

*George Neptis,
Times, Thessaloniki, Greece*

Unkindest cuts

While addressing the House of Commons about the federal budget, Finance Minister Paul Martin said: "The era of cuts is ending" (Martin's message, "Canada," March 25). I find this a very interesting statement. Every level of government has borrowed large amounts of money and that money is still owed. Legally speaking, the federal government has to run a surplus of \$30 billion for each of the next 20 years to settle our debt to the ground. To run this surplus, taxes either have to be raised or governments have to cut costs. Knowing the former is political suicide, the word of the cuts must be come.

*Bruce Gray
Burlington, Ont. L7R 1B2*

I find Paul Martin's comment that "we started to do in 1993" (previous governments) have started much, much earlier, and it would have been hell if it's late now. ("Some

A little flag waving

I was moved to tears by your story on the three men who have been defiantly flying the Canadian flag for a year ("They stand in guard," Opening Notes, March 31). They are certainly my heroes. As a musician in the Canadian Forces for 35 years, I stood on the beaches of Normandy for dedication to democracy, and our flag was there. I played songs of glory for our fallen comrades at cemeteries in Holland and Belgium, and our flag was there. I walked on the beach at Dieppe with veterans and spoke in whispers of their sacrifice, and our flag was there. I stood at the war memorial in Ottawa and celebrated our victories and lamented the passing of great Canadians who gave their lives for our country, and our flag was there. I am indebted to these patriotic Canadians in Quebec City who do "stand on guard" for our values and our heritage.

*Chief warrant officer
Jack Keppler (ret.)
Ottawa, Ont. K2B 3K6*

'Secrecy'?" (Cover, Feb. 17) to be extremely hypocritical. Was it not a Liberal government that introduced Canada to deficit financing? Was it not the Liberals' no-confidence motion over John Crosbie's budget that brought down Joe Clark's Conservative government? It was Crosbie's budget, at the early '80s, that was going to deal with and eliminate a much smaller federal deficit. Then it would have been "hell of a lot easier" (I applaud Martin's effort to reduce the federal deficit, and I hope he stays the course. But I believe he suffers from selective memory.)

*Philip Zurek
Burlington, Ont. L7R 1B2*

A word about debt

"Losing on borrowed money" (The Road Ahead, March 25), about the country's debt-load of \$1 trillion, should be a warning reading for every high-school and university student in Canada from now on, especially

*G. Edward Holt
Ottawa*

Sacrifice recognized

My letter writer Albert Dukhard ("Forgetful giant," March 31) notes that at least one county in rural New York state is very much aware of sacrifices Canadians have made for the ultimate benefit of our two countries. Canada's flag was proudly dis-

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*Chief warrant officer
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*G. Edward Holt
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EDITORIAL UPDATE

The Maclean's Guide to Universities

The definitive guide to Canadian universities. Features comprehensive, colorful profiles of more than 50 universities, the Maclean's university rankings and Campus Confidential, where students tell what makes their schools tick—and what ticks them off. It features a guide to the hottest frangipani, the most popular profs and the latest scoop on Who's Hot and Who's Not, and Who's New. Also included is a Financial Planner and the Career File—where students can pick up pointers on how to prepare for a changing job market.

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Backstage



Anthony Wilson-Smith

Unconventional wisdom

Trying to understand Quebec politics, someone once said, is like watching two bears wrestling under a rug. Every now and then, a corner of the carpet lifts, so that it is possible to see the great tumult taking place underneath. But even then, it is impossible to tell who is winning.

The same is true for Quebec politics, at least for many English-Canadians. To them, Quebec society appears riven by great debate and controversy. Among these, constitutional abridgment, equality, end-of-life language divisions, and scuffles among the province's three unions, business and political leaders.

But things are often not quite as they seem. For example, despite the antiseptic effects of various politicians and journalists, anglophone and francophone Quebecers get along personally. And polls indicating that francophones are split between supporting federalism and sovereignty do not reflect the equally relevant fact that most are bereft to tears by the relevant debate.

Then, there are the federal Liberals and their contentious relationship with Quebec. There seems ample cause to suggest that in the next election, the Liberals will win significantly more than their present total of 29 of the province's 75 seats, compared with the 31 held by the Bloc. But that, on closer examination, will probably not happen. Even some Liberal organizers in the province acknowledge they will be lucky to win up to five more seats—and they may not improve at all. Paradoxically, the Liberals are likely to improve in their traditionally weakest area—Western Quebec—while remaining unpalatable in the province that they once dominated.

The obsession of Jean Chretien's Liberals with Quebec is reflected at the most senior level. The Prime Minister and his alter ego, Finance Minister Paul Martin, are both Quebecers. So, too, are the overwhelming majority of Chretien's closest advisers, such as chief of staff Jean-Marc Péladeau, senior policy adviser Édith Goldklang, and Chretien's closest confidante, Montreal businessman John Rae. Conversely, there are no westerners at senior levels in the Prime Minister's Office. In meetings with caucus, the Prime Minister focuses every now while in Quebec, politics of length, often at the expense of other regions.

Since pre-election conditions around a referendum cause for a rethink, The Progressive Conservative caucus, who split the federation in 1993, will not be a factor (other than in Tory leader Jean Charest's own mind). And the federal Liberals can, for the first time in four elections, count on enthusiastic support from the provincial Liberals, who were recently invited to the Tories.

The other encouraging news for Liberals is the divided Bloc. In 1993, the party courted on the enormous popularity of then-leader

Lucien Bouchard. Now the race to choose a third leader in less than four years has been bitter yet boring. Although party whip Gilles Duceppe looks likely to win, his dictatorial manner in caucus and left-wing policies render him less popular in some quarters than either MP Nic Leblanc, recently wrote an open letter to a Montreal newspaper detailing why the party should not choose Duceppe.

But the question going to a Liberal breakaway is tempered by distinct realities of Quebec society. Some are not Chretien's fault, perhaps no one can bridge the greatest gulf between Quebec's constitutional wishes and the impatience of the rest of the country with the logic of the Parti. And media coverage of the Prime Minister in Quebec is every bit as vicious as, say, some editorial commentaries about Lucien Bouchard in the rest of the country. To counter Chretien's problems, some Quebec Liberal organizers feel prospective candidates, likely that Chretien has said he will step down and give Martin the job within two years).

But the Liberals possess an untiring instinct for making trouble for themselves in Quebec. Witness the recent, much-criticized decision to award travel grants abroad only to those Canadians and entrepreneurs prepared to promote Canada and to not increase the 1994 decision to close the Collège militaire royal, despite pressure from the country's royal military college in a majority francophone area.

Now, the Liberals are proceeding with legislation restricting tobacco companies' sponsorship of sports and cultural events. The bill's potential penalties aside, will decimate tobacco-related events in Montreal. That excludes all of the city's big summer festival arenas, such as the jazz and comedy festivals, fireworks exhibition and Grand Prix race. Not surprisingly, the result is a huge outcry in a city that is downright touchy about its fondness for fun. The result: Bloc supporters said last week could turn the tide in an easy race at the Montreal-area seats they expected to lose.

How can the Liberals so misunderstand a province they care so much about? The answer may be in old sports motto: criticizing athletes who "think too much." That means they second-guess themselves rather than follow their initial, correct reflexes. For good of Quebec's remarkable instincts elsewhere, witness high-stakes military and the manner in which he forced standing room only Alberta Premier Ralph Klein and, by the evidence last week, BC Premier Glen Clark. Alberta and British Columbia have often bickered with each other in the past, and until only to criticize Ottawa. But Chretien has made peace with both men, and, politics going, the Liberals will improve their seat count in both provinces. In Quebec, on the other hand, the Prime Minister and his advisers perhaps think too much. That isn't necessarily a good idea when bear wrestling is involved.

In Quebec, the good news for Chretien is that the Bloc is divided. The bad news is that his tobacco law is bombing.

Opening Notes

Edited by BARBARA WICKENS

Chrétien going to the polls early

To the concern of many Liberals, including at least half of the Ontario caucus, Prime Minister Jean Chrétien is pushing ahead with plans to call an election during the weekend of April 26 and 27. Given the new minimum 36-day campaign, which comes into effect on April 25, that would send Canadians to the polls on June 2. More cautious Liberals have warned that it could be dangerous to call an election before the traditional four-year term expires in mid-June. They worry that unless Chrétien has an overwhelming mandate to take to voters—and so far he does not—the timing of the election, and thus complaints about Liberal arrogance, could become his issue. In addition, opposition attacks on high unemployment, one-time taxes and health-care cuts could swing the Liberals' low-key platform of fiscal prudence. Those worries have not deterred election planners, such as campaign



Chrétien, ignoring the advice of a cautious caucus

director Gordon Ashworth, who are confident that the economy is recovering; that the team, unlike its opponents, is ready; and that the timing, on the heels of Chrétien's April 8 toll office visit to Washington, is right. So far such arguments are winning the cautious Chrétien's approval.

Amateur night in Edmonton

For Alex Cha, competing in the Local Exposure! amateur video competition is a labor of love. The 25-year-old Edmonton amateur underwriter estimates it took a total of 74 hours to produce his four-minute, eight-second video, *The Rose Figure*. The amateur—about a 16-story boy who has a contract to act on his life—because he delivers a pizza one minute late—is one of 100 that will be shown on the big screen as part of Edmonton's Local Hero International Screen Festival, running until March 15. Local Heroes is a celebration of independent cinema, which attracts acclaimed filmmakers from around the world. Among the participants this year will be the reigning monarchs and Oscar nominees: an Australian writer-director Paul Cox, whose showbiz comedy *Dark Star*

knows what Sammrich would think of Sandra Schmitz. By winning the Scott Tournament of Hearts last week in Vancouver, Schmitz, 35, and her Bighorn-based curling squad earned a spot in next month's world curling championships in Bern, Switzerland. (The same home away the winter of this week's Lubrit Peier in Calgary.) And when she throws her last rock in Bern, Schmitz will be nearly five months pregnant. Unlaunched prejudices have kept curling out of the Olympics—it has no medal status at the 1998 Winter Games in Nagano, Japan. Team men's and 10 women's teams will battle for the chance to represent Canada in Nagano at trials in Brandon, Man., from Nov. 23 to 30. "The chance to play in the Olympics is the biggest career we have ever played for," Schmitz said last week. "The Tournament of Hearts, the world championships—none of them come close."

Sammrich: We didn't even play for fun

Sweeping towards glory

Olympics can join Sandra Schmitz for instance, once-again that curling need not "stink." Additions to the sheet what by now is the hot girl image. Who



William Legge-Bourke, Antanking

Virtually militant

Instead of becoming a revolutionary tradition among Ontario university students, as recent weeks, protesters at McMaster University in Hamilton, the University of Guelph and all three Toronto universities—York, Ryerson and the University of Toronto—have occupied their schools' administrative offices, angrily demanding an end to strip mines in Ontario. But at the University of Western Ontario in London, whose hardscrabble Ontario campus will be held, close-to-shanty student body have earned in the moniker "Country Club U," students have fashioned a genius method of registering their displeasure. Last week, they began calmly making their electronic way to <http://www.uwo.ca/occupy>. At the Web site, launched by Students' Council, students are invited to occupy an electronic version of president Paul Dore's office. "Western is a conservative university," explained student president Diane Tompkins. "We didn't want to be too overbearing or aggressive or imperialistic." With 300 students adding their names to the occupation in its first day of operation, Tompkins described the site as "far more democratic than a real one—there is no way this many students could fit in Dore's real office." And it appears to have produced real results. After returning home a hero to Ontario last week, where he had spoken to Prime Minister Jean Chrétien about the need for improved student aid, Dore was prompted to close the Web site. He was promptly e-mailed Tompkins an invitation to meet—in person—this week.

BEST-SELLERS

FICTION

1. *The Fortune*, John Grisham (42)
2. *Alas, Babylon*, Margaret Mitchell (32)
3. *Fall in Love, Once More*, Michael McCollum (23)
4. *The English Patient*, Guy Gresham (10)
5. *2001: The Space Odyssey*, Arthur C. Clarke (2)
6. *Green Mansions*, D.H. Lawrence (12)
7. *You Need Me, Turnby*, Timothy Egan (8)
8. *After the Rain*, Barry Unsworth (9)
9. *The Tether of Heaven*, John le Carré (7)
10. *Harriet Beecher Stowe*, Barbara Gifford (8)

NONFICTION

1. *Seven Men of Steel*, David Maraniss (23)
2. *Empire of the Sun*, Schindler's List (23)
3. *Skin in the Game*, Michael Lewis (6)
4. *Angels' Ashes*, Frank McCourt (8)
5. *We Stand at the Crossroads*, Nelson Mandela (22)
6. *Personal Memoirs*, General George S. Patton (21)
7. *City of Ashes*, William Manchester (19)
8. *My Father, Anthony Quinn* (9)
9. *My Songs*, James Brown (8)
10. *The God's Gift*, Jason Miller (28)

11. *11 men were...: Stories to Run Away*

Undone in Umbria

Following on the success of his acclaimed book *Saved Hunger and Misery*, Ray Bradbury has written *After Remodel*. Set in the beautiful Italian region of Umbria—where the author now lives—it tells the tale of a group of immigrants from abroad who are all but lost by the gleeful shenanigans of the locals.

Passages

DIED: Former socialist prime minister of Jamaica Michael Manley, 72, of prostate cancer, at his home in Kingston, Man., who served with the Royal Canadian Air Force during the Second World War before earning a degree from the London School of Economics. Manley emigrated to Jamaica. During his first two terms as prime minister in the 1970s, he often denounced the evils of capitalism and imperialism while forging close ties with Cuban leader

Rafael Castro. When he returned to office in 1989, Manley boldly touted the merits of foreign investment and the benefits of close ties to the United States.

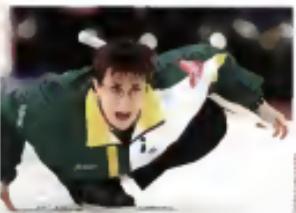
DIED: Guyanese president Cheddi Jagan, 70, in a Washington hospital following a heart attack. Jagan first gained power in the calamously administered elections of 1953. He was ousted from office later that same year when Britain suspended Guyana's constitution and sent troops there under pressure from the U.S. government, which feared the colony would become a socialist haven for communists in South America. Jagan was re-elected in 1982 in Guyana's first internationally monitored elections.

SETTLED: A claim of wrongful dismissal by Sylvie McLean, 44, a Kensington Palace maid for more than years to **Princess Diana**, in London, only minutes before the start of an inquest. Inflamed by the disclosure that the princess had been sexually harassed by her maid, the inquest adjourned.

LOST: An attempt by the renowned jazz bandleader Artie Shaw, 85, to extract 35 per cent of the profits from Canadian filmmaker **Barrymore's** 1996 Oscar-winning documentary, *Artie Shaw: One Is All You've Got*, is a Toronto court, on the basis that the film has yet to make money.

CHARGED: Equator's gold medalist **Sheridan Elder**, 57, with sexual assault, by Toronto police. According to the 33-year-old radio commentator, the assault occurred 17 years ago in a stable owned by Elder.

AWARDED: The **Earle Grey Award**, for lifetime achievement in Canadian television at the 11th annual Gemini Awards in Toronto, to Canadian actor, writer and director **Garth Pense**, 66.



Sherry-Ann

Hospitals under the knife

BY BARRY CAME

At Wellesley Central Hospital, the mood is grim, to bleak as the future prospects of many of the inner-city patients the venerable Toronto institution serves. Doctors, nurses, staff and a few patients have just finished watching Dr. Duncan Sinclair, chairman of the Ontario Health Services Board's Acute Care Committee, announce on television what is likely to amount to a death sentence for the hospital. "For shocked, resentful," intones Wellesley's chief of staff, Dr. Philip Berger, as he was absorbing the news that Sinclair's commission wants to shut down an institution that has been a fixture in the city's downtown core for the past 85 years. "He says he's acting on behalf of our children and grandchildren," Berger continues. "Well, he's clearly not thinking of the children and grand children of Wellesley's kind of people—all those single mothers and working women, the gays and lesbians, the drug addicts, inner city, First Nations, the poor and the homeless."

Wellesley was not the only Toronto doctor grubstamping slow last week. There were plenty of similar voices raised in protest as Sinclair's re-structuring committee, after offering the closure or mergers of 35

hospitals elsewhere in the province, finally turned its attention to the 39 publicly funded hospitals scattered across Metropolitan Toronto. In its long-awaited report, the commission found Metro Toronto's \$3-billion hospital system to be mired with duplicated services, excess capacity, aging buildings and an unfairly high concentration of services in the downtown core. To remedy the situation, a proposed medical surgery—the overnight closure of 30 hospitals, the transformation of two of them into outpatient clinics, and the merger, modification or closure of programs in virtually every remaining institution in the system. Few of the 44,000 employees are likely to remain untouched by the proposed changes. Hundreds, perhaps thousands, of jobs may be eliminated outright. "There will be some difficult times ahead," acknowledged Sinclair, a former dean of medicine at Queen's University in Kingston, Ont., as he attended the commission's findings. "But if we don't start to restructure and save our health services today, they won't be available tomorrow."

Money, or rather the lack of it, is the central problem. Like many other provinces in the country, Ontario is suddenly confronting the uncomfortable reality that it can no longer maintain hospitals while the

actual beds in those institutions continue to disappear because of budget cutbacks. As of last March, there were 6,775 acute-care beds in Metro Toronto's hospital system compared with roughly 11,000 a decade earlier. Across Ontario, 9,000 beds have vanished, the equivalent of 30 medium-sized hospitals. Yet during the same time, not a single hospital has closed in the Toronto area or, for that matter, in the whole province. "The beds are gone," Ontario Health Minister Jim Wilson said last week. "The wards are empty but the administration is still there. We're spending millions to maintain half-empty buildings."

Several other provincial jurisdictions have already reached similar conclusions. Saskatchewan, which once boasted the country's highest ratio of hospital beds per capita (4.60 for every 1,000 people), was among the first to embark on a comprehensive program of hospital closures. In the past 2½ years, 33 rural



Below: There will be difficult times ahead

hospitals have been shut down and converted into health centres by Premier Ray Nonsooma's government. In the fall of 1990, the 408-bed Plains Health Centre in Regina, the seventh of the provincial capital's three acute-care hospitals, will close. Next door in Alberta, three hospitals have been shut down by Premier Ralph Klein's government and a fourth—the 400-bed Bow Valley Centre—is scheduled for closure next month. Manitoba is gradually turning the 224-bed Manitoba Hospital in Winnipeg into a community health centre. Newfoundland is

scheduled to close two hospitals by 1993.

It's a precursor to what is now happening in Ontario, hospital services and health-care delivery systems in neighbouring Quebec underwent a dramatic reorganization last April when Premier Lucien Bouchard's government launched what it described as a "vibrant ambulatoire"—a turn away from traditional hospital care towards ambulatory or home care. The aim of the program is to reduce the length of hospital stays and increase the use of day surgery. The goal is to close seven of the province's 121 hospitals and 4,000 of its 23,000 hospital beds by 1998. In line with this program, six Montreal hospitals—two English and four French—have already closed or are in the process of closing, and a dozen more across the province have been or will be transformed into long-term geriatric-care centres and stripped of most of their specialty services, complete with staff and equipment.

Inevitably perhaps, language has become an issue in both Quebec and just across the Ottawa River in the nation's capital. Section 17 of Montreal's ambulatory contract may close the doors of two of the city's English hospitals as another act of vengeance by the separatist Parti Québécois government. Mirroring that is the current white-hot controversy surrounding the Sénior commission's decision to recommend the closure of Ottawa's Mount Pleasant, the only entirely French-speaking hospital in On-

Closing date
Below as follows
in the buildings of
other provinces



A battle to the bitter end

Kay Weeks could barely contain her anger. Like thousands of other women, she was furious over last week's recommendation that Women's College Hospital in downtown Toronto should close most of its programs to Sunnybrook Health Sciences Centre in suburban North York and close its doors by 1999 at the latest. Weeks, a retired teacher, became a patient of Women's College eight years ago when she was treated there for a crippling form of arthritis. Since then, she has also endured breast cancer and been treated for a severe Toronto infection. "I learned a lot about other hospitals in this city and just how good Women's College is," she recalls. Her experience led her to become an activist for the hospital, which she says provides a highly personalized approach to women's health care. "I'm appalled at this closure," she says. "I should to think what will happen to things like the breast program, which sees 8,000 women a year?" Staff members in the small, 167-bed hospital seemed equally shaken—and were particularly incensed that the panel making the recommendation

had ignored a recently forged, cross-cutting alliance with nearbyovsky Hospital, which is also slated for closing. Officials at Women's College say the much-larger Sunnybrook—1,200 beds—is too far away from its core of downtown patients, and that it lacks sympathy for women's health concerns. And Women's College vice-president Eleanor Ross, a former nurse, said that programs like the 24-hour sexual assault centre, which is to be moved to the emergency department of the huge Toronto Hospital, will suffer. "Dues is a nice name, starting to peep," she says. "Dues is a nice name, starting to peep."

A forced move, administration say, will fatally undermine the expertise that recently prompted the World Health Organization to designate Women's College an international research partner in women's health—the only such institution in the Western Hemisphere. Women's College is also responsible as a medical innovator, says chief operating officer Patricia Campbell. In 1994, for example, Women's College established a clinic for the prevention and treatment of osteoporosis, a crippling bone disease that affects every mom women from men, and in 1996, a cardiac rehabilitation centre geared to the needs of female heart patients. "We help women with problems that are chronic and debilitating, but not necessarily sex," says Campbell. "I don't think there is anybody else who is going to do it."

PATRICIA CHISHOLM

CANADA

time. When the restructuring commission announced the recommendation late in February, it immediately ignited a fire storm of legislative protest, none of it assuaged by the fact that it took four days for the commission to produce a French translation of the decision. Finance Minister Jean Chrétien and Bouchard have been driven into the trap, with Chrétien expressing his "disappointment" at the move and Bouchard terming it an "irreparable mistake" that could even dash the "fundamental question of legitimate rights" in Canada. Both Chrétien and Bouchard personally asked Ontario Premier Mike Harris to intervene. Harris, in response, dismissed both requests, describing Chrétien's move as being motivated by "election politics" and Bouchard's by his separate constituency. As for commission chairman Seiter, he vowed to remain silent. "If we were to allow such political issues to influence our decisions," he coolly stated in the midst of the Montreal controversy, "then what would be the purpose of having a commission in the first place?"

Despite such remarks, some observers note that Stéphane will undermine the political game. "His actions repeat what Metro Toronto is very public in the way it handles certain constituents," maintained Georgia Feldberg, director of York University's Centre for Health Studies. The next glaring example, critics say, is the commission's defeatful handling of the politically powerful construction of hospitals in and around the city's University Avenue. While wholesale closures and mergers are proposed elsewhere, Mount Sinai, Princess Margaret and the Toronto Hospital are set to proceed to join the University of Toronto's Task Force to search for ways to consolidate programs and services. The Hospital for Sick Children, perhaps the best-known of the University Avenue institutions, has been earmarked to lead a new Child Health Network to coordinate the reorganization of neonatal and pediatric services. No matter what the politics, the Stéphane commission has already accomplished one profound goal: Health care in Toronto—and throughout the province—stands on the brink of dramatic change. □

• **Not your opinion** as hospital closures are the first item of the Maclean's Forum. (www.capeco.ca/macleans)

HOSPITAL CLOSURES BY PROVINCE

BRITISH COLUMBIA: one hospital closed

ALBERTA: three hospitals closed, another closing in April

SASKATCHEWAN: 53 rural hospitals converted to community health centres, one Regina hospital to close in 1998

MANITOBA: no closures yet, but one Winnipeg hospital is

in the process of becoming a community health centre

ONTARIO: 24 closures announced so far, more to come

QUEBEC: seven hospitals to close by 1998

NEW BRUNSWICK, NEWFOUNDLAND AND LABRADOR: no closures

NEWFOUNDLAND: two hospitals to close by 1999

Alberta's health-care blues

They have often been described as the frontline workers of the health-care system. Last week in Alberta, nurses also seemed ready to take to the barricades. After 13 months of contract talks, preceded by wage increases of more than five per cent in 1994, the 12,000-member United Nurses of Alberta voted 85 per cent in favor of strike action—a week before Albertans went to the polls on March 11. Much more than wages were at stake: underlying the strike vote was unhappiness with health care that has seen hospital budgets and staff reduced. Staffing levels have been inadequate, according to many nurses, especially because hospital bed closures often meant that only more serious cases were being admitted. With the prospect of protracted health-care disruptions looking over the final week of Alberta's election campaign, nurses and regional health authorities finally reached a tentative settlement that includes more than seven per cent in wage increases over two years as well as what many nurses say is even more important: staffing on nights. Janice Michaels, an Edmonton registered nurse and local union official with eight years' nursing experience, called the settlement a step in the right direction. "I'm pleased with it," she said. "In terms of professional issues, it's a gain for us."

But concern about the health care system remains. The health budget, which stood at \$4.1 billion in 1992-1993, was reduced by more than \$900 million in three years. As critics complained that the cuts went too fast, too fast—causing bed shortages and long waiting lists—a strike by hospital laundry workers in the fall of 1995 galvanized public concern about the system. Although the governing Tories went into this week's election with the support of roughly two-thirds of decided voters, an Angus Reid poll conducted in the days before the nurses' referendum said that 60 per cent considered health care to be the most important issue facing the province.

Premier Ralph Klein has argued that spending cuts and restructuring were essential because health costs were spiralling out of control. But soon after the 1995 strike, he cancelled some cuts. And last fall—at a time when clear that the government's budget surplus was approaching \$2 billion—the Tories announced a major reinvestment package, including plans to hire 1,000 nurses and other health-care personnel. The health budget for the 1997-1998 fiscal year is now only \$1.80 million lower than it was before budget-cutting began—and it will be fully restored in two years. With that, Health Minister Hallie Johnson said that in the fall, "we've solved the problems to be solved."

Even as families are being plowed back into the system, the Calgary Regional Health Authority is expected to proceed with plans announced in 1994 to close one of Calgary's two principal hospitals, the Bow Valley Centre. The smaller Calgary hospitals have already been closed. Meanwhile, local health authorities elsewhere have closed one acute-care hospital (in Edmonton) and transformed 18 others into long-term care facilities or community health centres. Even with restored funding, Alberta's health system has changed. The challenge for the next government will be to restore public confidence.

MARK HORNBY in Calgary

CANADA

All in the family

It was a telling but largely forgotten factor in Canada's official Olympic bid—and the most popular federal party in Quebec. When the six Bloc Québécois leadership hopefuls appeared on radio-Canada's 24-hour news channel last week, the question-and-answer session proved to be much like the race itself—uneventful. Clustered in a semicircle in the studio, the four men and two women took turns bashing the federal government, avoided taking sides at each other, and generally agreed on key Bloc issues, such as a partnership arrangement between Canada and a sovereign Quebec. In fact, since outgoing leader Michel Gauthier announced he would resign from the job in December, the campaign to replace him has generated mostly yawns.

"This has been the most boring leadership race in history," said Montreal talk-show host Jean Lapierre, a former Bloc MP and a confidante of former BD leader and now Quebec Premier Lucien Bouchard. "It was a lonely road to sail, and the public just got involved."

That may, in part, be due to the perception that front-runner Gilles Duceppe is a show-in for the job. "The question is a lot whether he'll live," says Jean-Marc Léger, president of the Montreal-based polling firm Crouze Léger & Léger, "but if he does, it's on the first try." Regardless of whom is named the winner when the results are tallied on March 15 at the party's leadership convention in Montreal, the challenge stays the same: how to remain relevant at a time when the PQ's broad and buttery—Québec independence—has receded from the national stage. "Maybe it has less of a mandate because it's not a big time for constitutional issues," notes Lapierre. But he maintains that the party



Opposite: We are ready like we have never been before'

**The Bloc
Québécois tries
to generate some
leadership heat**

continues to be in a strong position because there is no other alternative to the federal Liberal party and the constitutional stalemate. "It fills the vacuum in the political situation in Quebec."

In fact, in spite of the lack of attention to the leadership race, the Bloc remains popular in Quebec. A recent Léger poll showed 44.8 per cent of decided voters for the PQ, compared with 40.9 per cent for the Liberals and 30.1 for the Tories. But Duceppe also acknowledges that the party has some work ahead of it. "We have to be more visible," he said. Madore's bilingualism and a frequent and effective presence in the House of Commons, he is the party's housebroken candidate in English Canada. But when the Bloc Québécois leadership is left because vacant—in January, 1996,

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CANADA

when party founder Bourassa left Ottawa for Quebec City—the prospect of Duceppe's future succession as leader seemed very remote. Although he ran against Bourassa, Duceppe was viewed by some of his caucus colleagues as too authoritarian for the job. This time out, though, the 49-year-old Bloc house leader, enjoying the support of 23 party MPs, quickly emerged as the front runner over fellow Bloc MP François Lalonde and Perrine Verche, Bloc policy adviser Daniel Turp, and Rodriguez Biron and Yves Dubois, two former Parti Québécois cabinet ministers.

Although Duceppe insists he has always been a team player, he still has his critics. "He's an interesting type," says former Bloc MP François Gélinas, who calls Duceppe difficult to work with. Gélinas supports Dubois, a bilingual businessman who held several PQ cabinet positions under René Lévesque. With the support of Maxime's *Le Gouverneur* newspaper and 16 Bloc MPs, Dubois, 57, appears to be Duceppe's earliest competition. He may also prove to be a factor in Prime Minister Jean Chrétien's effort to bring the Bloc Québécois banner in Chrétiens' ride of Sept-Îles in the next federal election campaign.

Duceppe is widely perceived as Bourassa's pick for the job. That can be both a blessing and a curse. Bourassa was dogged throughout his leadership by the perception that he needed in Bourassa's shadow. "One thing is sure. For me a symptom," Duceppe maintains. But others dispute the Bloc's ability to portray itself as independent, and some even question the need. "The Bloc is now a fringe party of the Parti Québécois," says Lévesque, who does not think that situation poses a problem for the party.

In fact, branch offices are often successful in the coming federal election, expected to be called for June. BQ members can identify with the party, which currently holds 31 of the 75 seats in Quebec, will again carry the province. In fact, Gélinas notes, Quebecers do not even care who leads the party—"What they like about the Bloc is the protest atmosphere that it embodies." Duceppe, though, notes that the race is likely to be tighter, with the federal Liberals hoping for a resurgence in Quebec. "It's a fairly competitive battle," says Durrell Bricker, senior director-general at the polling firm Angus Reid Group, of the unreported BQ-Liberal fight. But, Duceppe insists, "we are ready like we have never been before." For the moment, though, the Bloc faces a more pressing task: choosing a new leader—and generating some excitement.

BRENDA BRUNSWELL in Montreal

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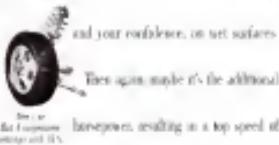
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A nation in chaos

Rebel Albanians seize control in the south to challenge a strongman

Allianian army soldiers manning checkpoints along the route to the southern port city of Vlore looked fearful as they told a group of journalists not to continue through a dangerous inland pass. "Armchair (troops) across those hills," the soldiers warned. "Everyone has arms." Beyond a stretch of no man's land, an armored fire truck roared through the valley. Goureska had taken a new position as the high ground along the road to Vlore, newly dubbed "Rebel City," where armed civilians waited it from government control just days earlier. The pickup trucks waggishly eyed the newcomers and the white flag hanging from their vehicle's window. "Who are you?" they demanded, their guns pointed. "Are you with Berisha?" shouted one. When I finally convinced the generalissimo had no time for the government of President Sali Berisha, the gourmets broke into smiles. "We are welcome," they said, dropping their machine guns to their sides. "You will have an excellent time." We are not crazy rebels, we are people fighting together against a dictatorial regime.

A week earlier, the country was described as "stable" despite a 10-day strike against the Albanian government. But now, the tiny Balkan nation, which is run by the Socialist coalition, was at the brink of civil war. Seven weeks of pro-war over the collapse of trade and payment inconvertible currencies had transformed into armed rebellion. The south of the country was in a state of anarchy, its local leadership driven out by armed rebels. In the west, more than 30 people had been killed and scores had been injured by stray bullets, police brutality and mobs beatings of suspected agents of the SHIK, state security force.

More residents fear lookouts the streets at night, along with



Berisha (left); Vlore's citizen rebels shout into the air "We are fighting together against a dictatorship!"

people throughout poverty-stricken Albania. Some 300,000 among the country's 3.4 million inhabitants had migrated abroad—\$2.7 billion is the doctor's private. Thousands lost their life savings. Demonstrators were furious that the government had failed to regulate the schemes—and even benefited from them politically. At first, people just wanted their money back. But that changed when the conservative Berisha continued to ignore their grievances, calling the opposition "red terrorist"—meanwhile, Communists left over from the days of Stalinist leader Enver Hoxha—who were exploiting the crisis. When he took office in 1992, Berisha assembled a loyal police guard, mainly men from his northern home town of Tropoja, to wage war against opposition politicians and journalists. The non-communist SHIK officers fought for their lives—and then did the country's ratings fight. While Berisha sent SHIK officers to subdue dissident strikes last month, the people began to march, his resignation

in Vlore, a city that had been a centre for smuggling illegal immigrants and drugs to Italy, the crackdown provoked a violent response. Locals fought riot police, set fire to city hall and forced government officials to flee. When a curfew spread, the SHIK officers retreated to barracks, a student hunger strike at Vlore's university, which had the security service's local headquarters, killing six officers. Officers invaded open the nearby military barracks and seized the armory. Nearly everyone, it seemed, was carrying a gun in Vlore last week. By day, residents combed in their houses. At night, armed gangs roamed the streets on the sky lit up with tracer bullets. There was a constant threat of midnight fire.

The complete collapse of law and order in Vlore and other towns in the south prompted Berisha to declare a state of emergency—which in turn allowed him to legitimate a crackdown against his political opponents. The draconian measures forced more than four people to walk together and obliges all journalists to submit their stories to government or censor before publication. (This aspect, sent electronically from southern Albania, was not subject to censorship.) The army was given shoot-to-kill orders in the south, while (Berisha's) local police force stepped up its growing reign of terror. Early on, 20 government agents manacled the offices of Albania's largest daily newspaper and set fire to the building, leaving a melted heap of computer equipment donated by Bill Gates. George Soros's foundation gave \$100,000 to the country's ratings fight. "I expected I would be harassed. I thought I might be arrested, but I never expected this," said editor-in-chief Tariq Blaku. His staff moved for protection into hotels in the capital, as did foreign press services. Some activists fled the country. Others appealed to foreign

embassies for asylum or went into hiding. And almost everyone stayed indoors under a 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. curfew. Berisha, meanwhile, had himself re-elected to a second five-year term by his rubber stamp parliament. He immediately replaced the government, the head of the army and other key figures with his own hard-core lackeys.

Still, Berisha's crackdown and consolidation of power appeared inadequate to quell the unrest. Instead, his radio, mostly rockers' Christian rebels, took up positions as far south as they could crawl, but did not fire. Two fighter planes released an order to attack civilians and flew their MiG-15 to Italy where they requested political asylum.

Albanians are scattered in the hills with a newly acquired weapon. "He must go," said another local resident of Vlore named Luk. "And the closest?" Well, "not these two hills, they are reserved for him." If Berisha were to surprise political analysts and reign, many fear that the anarchy that has been unleashed in the south would continue unabated. If a new government were to take over—and one is in the wings—it would be unable to gain control. "It would be like a fire," says Shalim Celai, an Albanian, "proliferating. Shalim Celai, a Vlore engineer encamped in the hills with a

newly acquired weapon. "He must go," said another local resident of Vlore named Luk. "And the closest?" Well, "not these two hills, they are reserved for him." If Berisha were to surprise political analysts and reign, many fear that the anarchy that has been unleashed in the south would continue unabated. If a new government were to take over—and one is in the wings—it would be unable to gain control. "It would be like a fire," says Shalim Celai, an Albanian, "proliferating. Shalim Celai, a Vlore engineer encamped in the hills with a

STACY SULLIVAN in Tirana

Pyramids of doom

Albania's elaborate pyramid schemes, whose collapse has sparked an angry uprising, once looked like a ray of poverty in a country where the average worker makes just \$10 a month. The new money funds, disguised as investment firms or charitable foundations, promised investors astronomical returns of 20 percent to 60 percent a month. At first, Albanians, who had been isolated for decades by their bad-line Communists, were suspicious. But as tales of instant wealth spread, more and more people succumbed to unscrupulous capitalist ways. "I know it sounds strange," says Gjergj Haxhi, a 28-year-old Albanian businessman, "but people would hear from their neighbors that they invested \$500 and got back \$1,000. So they did it, too."

The funds touted supposed investments in tourism, eggs, salt mines and supermarkets. In reality, financial experts believe, the schemes were exercises in laundering money, and smuggling weapons and fuel across Lake Shkodra to neighboring Yugoslavia during the four years of UN sanctions that ended in 1996. "It was clear," says Caron Elbert, the World Bank's representative to Albania, "that no legitimate businessman could offer such a high rate of return." As the funds' owners grew to more than \$2 billion, foreign banking officials warned the government that the schemes would collapse when the cash stopped flowing. And investors could no longer be paid off. But with parliamentary elections set for May, authorities apparently feared that taking regulatory action against the funds would be politically dangerous. As it turned out, not taking action was a disaster.

The Clinton cash machine

ANDREW PHILLIPS
IN WASHINGTON

I don't think I can last. I can't do anything but go to fund-raisers and shake hands. I can't focus on a strong law but the most disastrous [Hillary] can't. At one?—we're all getting sick and crazy because of it

—President Bill Clinton, quoted in
"Behind the Oval Office,"
by Dick Morris

Dick Morris was Bill Clinton's necessary evil, his dined-in a blowout. When the President was at his post-banquet pacific following the Republican sweep of the U.S. Congress in 1994, he called his old friend Morris into the White House to minister to his come-uppance. Never mind that Morris's political credentials were questionable: He worked for Democratic and Republicans with equal facility (and his personal morals were execrable) (he was forced to quit his Senate when a national television news show after a 200-plus-hour protracted). He had worked out a formula to save Clinton by flooding the airwaves with political advertising for more than a year before November's presidential election. That strategy came with a high price—but it was money and in the President's time as the Democratic most powerful magnet for attracting the tens of millions of dollars needed to keep the ads running. Chayev's pliantly honest about the strain on his, his wife, Hillary, and Vice President Al Gore he revealing under any circumstances. Last week, with new revelations about the Democrats' cash-making machine coming thick and fast, it was officially off.

The problem for the Democrats is that they were too successful for their own good. Morris's strategy required so much money—\$12 million for his TV ad campaign alone—that fund-raisers were under tremendous pressure to produce. By their own admission, Democrats accepted many dubious contributions. Gore, as documented last week in *The Washington Post* by Bob Woodward, while reporting on the Watergate scandal in the 1970s, helped to bring down president Richard Nixon, was the Democrats' "solicitation chief." It is an unusual role for an



Chayev (left) with the Clintons in 1994. Williams (left, photo

Charges fly over campaign fund-raising

ascendant vice-president, Gore personally worked the phones to seek money from wealthy donors. More controversially, he placed the calls from his office in the White House—a possible violation of federal law. Hillary and Bill Clinton's office was also dragged directly into the spending scandal. Her chief of staff, Margaret Williams, acknowledged that she accepted \$50,000 (U.S.) cheques from a donor in the White House in 1995—another potential violation. More questionable still, the cheques were from a Taiwanese-American businessman, Johnny Chang, who two days later brought the Chinese officials into the White House to have their photos taken with Clinton.

All of that followed the release of documents showing that Clinton himself looks like

rest, personal role in raising money—the kind of crassness that, by Morris's account, Clinton's "in-fam" (in-fighting, "sark and ersey"). He sought back last week at a new cocktail—featuring Gore and Williams—about an effort to reform U.S. laws governing campaign financing, saying he was "livid" and stating, "I discovered that the Democratic had not adequately checked where contributions were coming from, and I discovered that his administration had changed his policies to serve the interests of his party's patrons."

"I don't believe you can find any evidence of the fact that Bill Clinton's government is politically biased because of a contribution," he said. Clinton's fundraising woes may not reach the scale claimed by House Speaker Newt Gingrich, who labeled them a "sordid" "german Warrent." But they have taken on a life of their own. No fewer than five investigations are already under way in Washington. The Justice Department is looking into allegations that campaign laws were broken. The FBI is investigating claims that the Chinese government may have tried to buy influence in the White House and Congress by funneling money to the Democrats through Asian-American companies and front organizations. In both houses of Congress, where Republicans are in the majority, politicians are miscreaving to find best advantage out of the situation. Two Senate committees and

one committee of the House of Representatives plan hearings into campaign financing. That alone will keep the controversy in the public eye for many weeks to come.

The revelations so far raise at least three issues. The first is the simple property of collecting such vast amounts of money to fuel the American political machine. Both Democrats and Republicans raised more cash than ever before for their 1996 campaigns. Much of that was in so-called soft money—funds raised for parties rather than individual candidates. There is no law on how much soft money a party can collect, and the Republicans were better at it than the Democrats, pulling in some \$800 million compared with \$165 million for their rivals. Both parties continue to seek such funds from wealthy donors even as the Democrats' funding scandal widens. In late February, for example, Republican leaders held a session for rich partners at a luxe resort in Palm Beach, Fla., where Senate Majority Leader Trent Lott described political donations of \$100,000 or more as "the American way." For many critics of the system, that kind of ostentatious trading of vast amounts of

money for access to top politicians is the true scandal—though it is perfectly legal.

Much of Clinton's strategy fits into that category. Under Morris's direction strategy, he outlined plans to use access to him and Gore to reward wealthy donors. Documents given to congressional investigators by Blendon Jones, who was forced out of his job as deputy chief of staff to the President in January, show Clinton enthusiastically weighing options to offer coffee meetings, jingos or even rounds of golf with him if the donation was big enough. "Get other names at 100,000 or more, \$5,000 or more," he scribbled in a memo suggesting such an arrangement. Tellingly, he added: "Ready to start overnight this right away." That led to the practice of visitors sleeping in the listed Lincoln Bedroom and other parts of the White House residence—total of \$28,000 for the first term, many of the rich wealthy donors who gave sums ranging up to \$200,000 to the Democrats. Clinton insists there was never a direct link between giving money and sleeping at the White House. So far at least, the practice appears to be legal—though unquestionably tacky.

The second question is whether any lawbreakers. Gore deleted his calls from the White House by noting that he made them as a credit cardholder by his campaign organization. And in a phrasé that immediately attracted ridicule as an example of lawyerly technobabble, he said there was "an controlling legal authority" to establish that what he did violate the law. In Clinton's case, he held his coffee sessions with supporters in the White House residence—so he would not break rules saying that federal offices cannot be used for partisan political purposes.

But the most explosive issue may be whether foreign entities sought to exploit the Democrats' largess for cash. The party has retained S.I. and has an improper contributions—and three convictions of that money came from men with intimate ties to Asian companies: Johnny Chang, John Huang and Charlie Yau Lin Yee Chang, who headed the controversial \$500,000 cheque to Hillary Clinton's senior aide, started the White House S.I. times and has sought to turn him access to commercial advantage in Taiwan and China. That may be nothing more than an extension to Washington of old Chinese practice of acquiring power (connection) whenever possible. In a memo made public last week a White House official described Chang as a "bastard" but only for his own earnishment. What investigators want to know is whether as part of something more sinister an effort by the Chinese government to acquire influence at the highest levels of U.S. politics by exploiting Clinton's money list.

Scandal watch

Besides the campaign-funding imbroglio, President Bill Clinton has faced four other major scandals since he first took office in 1993. Updates on the status:

WHITEWATER

The probe into Bill and Hillary Clinton's real-estate and other deals in Arkansas has dragged on for four years. To little effect. But special prosecutor Kenneth Starr, who last month was ready to wrap the job, has stayed on the case and insists that charges are still possible.

PAULA JONES

The U.S. Supreme Court is considering whether Jones should be allowed to pursue her sexual harassment suit against Clinton while he is serving as president. She claims he propositioned her—while exposing himself—in a hotel room when he was Arkansas governor. A decision is expected by June.

TRAVELGATE

Prosecutor Starr has investigated Hillary Clinton's role in the firing of seven White House travel office employees in May, 1993, but although she indirectly had about it (via an aide's formal statement), no charges are likely.

FILEGATE

The controversy over confidential FBI files on Republicans obtained by two White House security men petered out after investigators looked to evidence that any senior officials were involved

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By Bruce Wallace

The British ties that still bind

Last November, just in time for the Christmas rush, The Daily Telegraph issued a modest paperback called *The Book of Canadian Gibberish*. "A book on Canadian clichés?" says a pernickety MacLaren, the British backbencher when asked for a copy. "One does, and the main reason is that the proprietor of *The Daily Telegraph* is Canadian Conrad Black, who noted in the forward to the collection that he wanted to 'make a contribution to the violent and historic cause of class and good Anglo-Canadian relations.' So the Telegraph impeded his desire of colonial obfuscation and came up with 97 Canadas, a cast that ranges from Col (flock) Watson to Harold Balfour and Beatrice. It has not, incidentally, become a bestseller.

But judging by the book's heavy weighting towards soldiers, the special Anglo-Canadian spirit that Black wants to celebrate is very much founded on the shared sacrifice of war—especially the early months of the Second World War when Canada and Britain stood alone in the northern hemisphere against the Nazis. More than a third of the entries are military men, British rulers excluded for thinking Canada is a warrior nation of Prussian proportions. Canadians were more than mere allies of the British. They were tested, finally, fighting to defend a brotherhood of soldiers and, in many cases, the heroes and lives of friends, business partners and old schoolmates. The Canada War Memorial in Green Park next to Buckingham Palace is the only monument to any nation in the Royal Parks. The Queen was there. And 80 Canadians have won the Victoria Cross, Britain's highest military honour for courage.

Only two VCs survive. The generation that fought the war is passing, and whether the honours of war will outlive them is debatable. More than half a century later, Canada has a prime minister who is fond of referring metonymically to the narrowing of the Pacific Ocean and the widening of the At-

lantic. Meanwhile, the British have cast their economic lotus—not their hearts—with three European neighbors. It's getting tougher to play the old Commonwealth card for special treatment as Ray MacLaren, Canada's high commissioner in London, found out when he suggested in a review of the Telegraph book that the British newspapers are more obstinate than Canadians that of Americans "Balderdash," mocked The Sunday Times, claiming that MacLaren's "no-

doerry, very well here but not as well as in Canada." Strike two on MacLaren.

There are, of course, Canadians whose presence is deeply felt. Black remains the most prominent and politically influential Canadian expat. The Weston family are equally, almost percentually, among the top five richest Britons. Edmonton native Patrick Cox is probably the country's hottest shot designer. Londoners think Toronto impresarios Ed and David Mirvish for rescuing the venerable Old Vic theatre and, more cautiously, the Rechenbachs for allying the London dyke with Canary Wharf.

"We now have a good, healthy relationship of equals," says Sir Colin Sefton, chairman of the British Canadian Parliamentary Group. "If Canada doesn't write the news here, it's because you are lucky enough not to have articulating problems." Nor is Canada about to become just another trading partner for Britain, sort of a bigger, less brassy Brazil. "Sure the public likes, especially in politics, are not what they once were," notes David Twiston Davies, editor of the obituary collection, who was born in Masson but has lived most of his life in Britain. "But the personal ties are still there. Go to any dinner party in Britain and eight of 10 people will have some connection to Canada—an aunt in Winnipeg or a son at school in B.C."

That may be why it's still easy to stoke the old emotional connection now and then, such as when the Canadian army fired a little live ammunition at a rogue Spanish fishing trawler in the summer of 1995. Yes, the Brits took pleasure that it was the much-despised Spanish getting poked. But they loved Brian Trelawny's theatrical politeness. And they thought Royce Frith, then the high commissioner in London, was a bit like his family butts and slightly eccentric, slinging down the Spanish beer in an interview after an interview. The odd Maple Leaf flag still flutters in British ports in solidarity from that summer. It's a reminder that it is a link forged in blood, as the obituaries illustrate, and can never be explained or sustained by a simple account of trade and investment. Numbers just don't do it. □



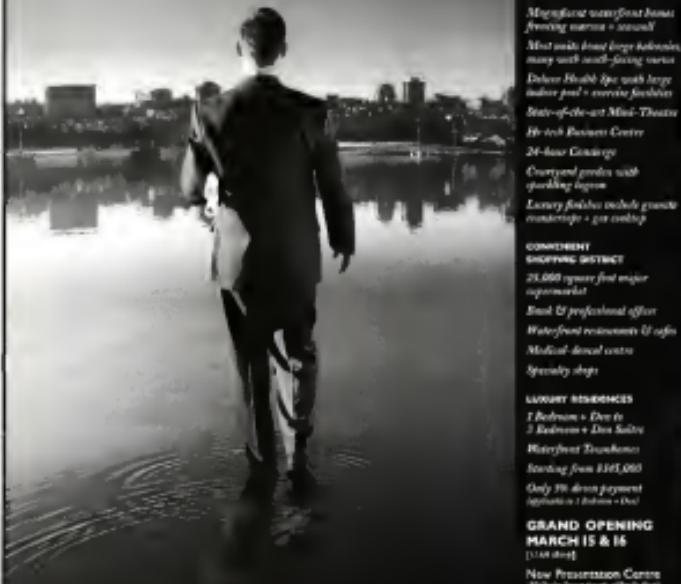
Visiting the Canada War Memorial: a link forged in blood

"Aquarius must be the most spectacular waterfront neighbourhood Vancouver has ever seen," Concord Pacific told me as their designer. Terrific, I said. They asked that even the smallest units at Aquarius have fabulous water views—while costing the same as condos without views. No problem, I said. They also insisted on a shopping district just steps away—all for the same price. I like a challenge, I said. Then they mentioned adding a health club, business centre, mini theatre and courtyard garden—without adding to the price. Gee, I said. As if that weren't enough, these waterfront homes had to have luxury finishes like granite countertops and gas cooktops—still for that same, competitive price.

"What do you want from me?" I finally asked.



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BUS BLAST IN BEIJING

A bomb blew up a bus in a Beijing shopping district during the Friday evening rush hour. While the official media reported no deaths, unofficial accounts said two people died and 20 were wounded—many with severe burns. The unprecedented attack in the Chinese capital came less than two weeks after three bombs went off in the western Xinjiang region where Muslim separatists are active.

A NEW FIGHT OVER NUKES

Germany mounted its largest security operation since the Second World War, as anti-nuclear protesters—trucks carrying nuclear waste reached a dump near the northern town of Gorleben. For days, German authorities buried thousands of anti-nuclear protesters, spurred to action by a recent nuclear waste accident in France.

CAVENIAN'S DESCENDANT

British scientists used DNA technology to extract a 8,000-year-old skeleton known as Cheddar Man to trace a killing relative—whose bones lie less than a mile from the coven where the bones were found in 1880. They had taken DNA samples from history teacher Adam Terpil, 42, and 19 people whose families had lived locally for generations.

REBEL GAINS IN ZAIRE

Tutsi-led rebels closed in on Kinshasa, the last government-held city in eastern Zaire, as UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan urged them to except a Rwandan peace plan. The rebels have met relatively little resistance to their advance as underground Zairean soldiers, lost and abandoned, each fledged town. A UN spokesman said the regime of Mobutu Sese Seko has abandoned its forces with hundreds of Croatian and Bosnian Serb mercenaries, paid \$4,000 a month.

ISRAEL PULLS BACK

Israel's cabinet narrowly approved a pullback of troops in the West Bank under peace-accords calling for a peace with Palestine. But Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat complained that the area amounted to only a third of what he expected. Soldiers will pull out of about nine per cent of rural West Bank land. Israel has already handed over an additional three per cent, including eight Arab cities.



Lebanese home in Beirut, Ky. (AP/WideWorld)
Damage in Beirut, April 1983

The rage of nature

The Midwest suffered demolished homes, streets turned into rivers and Cincinnati's major airlines, basically shut down, surrounded by floodwaters—only partly captured by a network of the natural levees that 500,000 Americans last week. Torrential rains, record flooding and the worst flood in 35 years, along with the 1,500-kilometre Ohio River, at least 50 dead and record damage, initially estimated at nearly \$500 million. Much of the trouble began when 300 cm of rain fell in a region stretching from Arkansas to West Virginia over the weekend of March 1 and 2. The deluge quickly Ohio spilled over its banks, destroying homes and businesses, contaminating wells and streams, shutting down sewage

and water treatment plants, and sending thousands of people to higher ground. By last week, the floodwaters in portions of Ohio and some of its tributaries had crested, meaning that some communities will begin to re-occupy the ravaged job-clearing areas, and in some cases rebuilding. Early on, President Bill Clinton flew to the base east of Arkansas and visited the town of Arkadelphia, whose downtown had been reduced to pieces by a fast-moving. Promising millions of dollars in federal aid, Clinton told the townfolk, "Nothing has altered me the way this has today."

Atoning for the past

After enduring intense pressure for more than a year over its Second World War record, the Swiss government has finally placated its critics by proposing a \$6.4-billion "solidarity fund" to aid victims of genocide, poverty, natural disasters and repression—including the holocaust. This fund is "a breakthrough," said New York Senator Alfonse D'Amato, who is probing Swiss bank dealings with the Nazis and the failure of financial houses to hand over dormant bank accounts to relatives of holocaust victims. Canadian

billionaire Edgar Bronfman, who heads the World Jewish Congress, called the move a victory for "truth and justice." The fund, suggested by Swiss President Amélie Koller, is to be financed by the sale of Swiss gold reserves. The announcement preceded a trip to the United States this week by Swiss Foreign Minister Pavie Coll and a pending U.S. report on Swiss gold dealings that could force a review of a 1945 treaty with the Allies. The report is expected to say that Swiss banks returned only \$7.9 million of more than \$547 million in gold they stored or bought from the Nazis—just 15 per cent of the total.



The 1998 Chrysler Cirrus: a streamlined silhouette and a Fever-like front grille

Driven by design

Smart styling gives Chrysler a competitive edge

BY ROSS LAWER

As a small boy growing up in Ohio, Bob Boniface loved to draw pictures of cars. He scribbled them in the margins of his grade-school math books and stacks of paper at his parents' kitchen table. He has photos of cars cut out of magazines, tacked over them and added to his own modifications: a sleeker hoodline here, a darker front there, perhaps a menacing front grille for that muscular, ready-to-race look. He sketched cars in his spare time while earning a university degree in psychology and, later, during a two-year stint as a shoe-shoulder record keeper for a national hand company. Finally, at 23, he was done that job and applied to study design at Drexel's Center for Creative Studies—hoping one day to make a living doing what he had always done for fun.

Boniface not only got his wish, but today, nine years later, he can claim credit for one of the most talked-about new designs in the car industry, the second-generation Chrysler Cirrus. Unveiled in January at the North American International Auto Show in Detroit, the sporty 1998 Cirrus and its more elegant cousin, the Concorde—both of which go into production next September at the firm's Brampton, Ont., assembly plant—drew unqualified praise from industry

experts, journalists and real manufacturers. "The new Chrysler is gorgeous," says Maryann Keller, a leading auto analyst and managing director of Forman Selig Inc., in New York City. "I hope that their quality, engineering and style is as nice as their appearance, because Chrysler continues to lead the industry in design."

Only a few years ago, any suggestion that Chrysler deserved credit for its design would have been met with disbelief—it just bought. All through the 1970s and 1980s, a period when the firm twice teetered on the brink of bankruptcy, Chrysler factories turned out a succession of soulless, boxy cars and trucks. Reptiles by the popularity of its minivans, the company became synonymous with out-of-date engineering and substandard quality, factors that contributed to a steady loss of market share. "The perception, especially with young people, is that we don't know how to build a quality car," former Chrysler chairman Lee Iacocca admitted in 1991.

The turnaround, when it came, was dramatic. In the fall of 1992, Chrysler introduced a new line of full-size cars code-named the LH models—the original Cirrus and Concorde, the Eagle Vision and the upscale New Yorker and LHS. The LH vehicles—industry wags joked that the designation stood for "last hope"—incorporated innovative cab-forward design that has since become a corporate signature, by shortening the front hood and pushing the wheels to



The new Intergrated (above) and Concorde (right) sedans



John Miller and Mark Boniface

wards the corners, the designers created additional interior room without increasing the car's overall length. The new cars were also better built than their predecessors, although they still lagged behind competing models such as the Toyota Camry and Honda Accord in surveys of quality and customer satisfaction.

It was Chrysler's good fortune to launch the LH cars just when the U.S. economy was beginning to catch fire. As sales rose and profits poured in, the company overhauled the rest of its lineup with a hybrid new subcompact, the Neon, and a new array of minivans, sedans and two-door coupes. On the track side, Chrysler launched the highly successful Jeep Grand Cherokee, a re-designed Dodge Ram pickup—four times as popular as the previous year's model—and a re-engineered minivan with an optional driver-side sliding door, an industry first. This year there is also a redesigned minivan pickup, the Dakota, a new sport utility vehicle, the Dodge Durango, and an all-new sedan, the \$16,900 two-door model

based on a 1988 hot rod, the Plymouth Prowler.

If Chrysler's recent financial performance proves anything, it is that, in their never-ending race with the car's many hyperbolic car as much about smart, adventurous design as they do about quality. For three years running, the company has been the world's most profitable automaker on a per-vehicle basis. Its annual revenues are half those of Ford and one-third those of General Motors, but analysts say that Chrysler's smaller size helps it keep it focused, nimble and quick.

Nowhere is this team obvious than in the speed and efficiency of its product-development operations. In the old days, it took Chrysler five years to go from concept to production of a new car. Its North American rivals still typically need four years to create a car from scratch. Ford spent as many as 38 months to develop the midsize Ford Contour and Mercury Mystique. In contrast, Chrysler budgeted \$1 million and \$2.8 billion to produce the 1998 Intergrated and Concorde, and these companion models that will go on sale next year, the Eagle Vision, Chrysler LHS and Chrysler 300. The cost includes \$845 million for three new aluminum V-6 engines that will eventually be used in many of the company's other cars and trucks. Chrysler says the new engines are more powerful, more fuel efficient and produce fewer emissions than their cast-iron predecessors.

Chrysler's ability to develop the second-generation LH cars is such a short time owing much to its Japanese-style platform-design system. Instead of working in different departments, staff engineers from all key areas—design, engineering, manufacturing, marketing and finance—are brought together to work in teams. The system cuts down on unnecessary duplication and ensures that problems are solved early on, before costs get out of control.

The new Intergrated and Concorde are also the first cars in Chrysler to be designed entirely on computer. An advanced software system originally developed for the aviation industry ensures that all of those involved in the process, including outside suppliers, are kept abreast of the latest updates, saving time and money. "In effect, we build the car on electronically," says John Miller, Chrysler's general manager of large car engineering, and in an interview at the company's headquarters in Auburn Hills, Mich., he adds, "We never build mudscks any more. It allows us to do things a lot faster and more accurately by reusing every bit of space under the hood." In the past, Miller says, it sometimes took weeks to determine the full consequences of a change in specifications. "Now, an engineer changes his part and there are five or six other parts that react to it, so the following morning every one of those people will wake up by looking at their computer screens to see whether that created an interference condition."

The most striking aspect of the 1998 sedans, however, is their dramatic styling, a marked contrast to the rather restrained, generic designs currently offered by most of the world's other major automakers. All the exterior and interior body parts are sleek, as are the instrument panels, seats, suspension and brakes. Although the new Intergrated is built on the same wheelbase as the current version, the passenger compartment is taller and trunkier and the car is lower and sleeker. Access to the rear seat is improved with bigger door openings, and the headlamps—frequently criticized for being too weak on current LHs—are larger and produce more light.

Chrysler's designers have also given the new models distinctive identities—an important consideration in marketing them to

BUSINESS

different demographic groups. The current Intrepid, Cirrus and Vision are visually similar except for front-end and tail-light designs, but their successors share virtually no exterior sheet metal, except for the doors on the Cirrus and Vision. Allowing for that degree of separation while staying within a tight budget required Chrysler's manufacturing engineers to rethink their metal-stamping operations at the Brampton plant.

According to the company, the new system uses a single set of tooling but is capable of forming all several differently styled body panels in quick succession. "In my 32 years in the business, I'd never seen that level of cooperation between design and manufacturing," says John Herlitz, Chrysler's vice-president of product design. In return for the increased flexibility, he says, the design team agreed to eliminate the plastic lower-body cladding that had previously been used to give each model a slightly different appearance. The result is a line of vehicles that look more distinctive than their forebears.



Dodge Viper
top: Chrysler Intrepid concept car; Plymouth Prowler car for car. Chrysler is the world's most profitable automaker



while being faster, cheaper and less complex to assemble.

In the case of the Intrepid, the design is sportier and more aggressive, with a sweeping profile that gives what is essentially a four-door family sedan the look of a two-door coupe. "What fits into the stance of the vehicle—how the wheels relate to the body, the wedge of the car, the high rear deck and the low nose," says Brundage. "It's a car that gives the impression of a sports car. It's slinky without looking like a jelly bean—very purposeful."

His concern on the Cirrus project, 40-year-old designer Mark Bill, had a different mission. On average, purchasers at the current-model Cirrus are in their mid-30s. Chrysler wanted to lower that to the mid-20s while giving the car a more sophisticated image. "The rule of thumb is that you can't sell an older person a young man's car, but you can't do it the other way around," Herlitz says. In addition, the company was hoping to attract new baby-boomers whose children have left home and who no longer need



Plymouth Prowler

Tourists are all strong sellers, while GM is also reviving its lineup with a range of new four-door sedans. On styling, however, the industry consensus is that Chrysler sets the pace. "Compared to the car it's replacing, the new Cirrus is visually a lot tighter," Bill says. "There are as many last-millisecond and extraneous parts." Brundage says that his goal with the Intrepid was to "enhance the things that are good about the car and solve the problems." Judging by appearances, all those years spent sketching cars as a kid paid off handsomely. □

the carrying capacity of a minivan or sport-utility truck. "One of our goals is to appeal to people who are perhaps moving out of minivans and want to get 'back into cars,'" Herlitz says. "With car-for-wear, they won't feel like all the space is being taken away from them."

Bill, who designed jewelry before leading a jub-sculpting clay model for Chrysler 13 years ago, says the goal of attracting a younger demographic was "rolling around in the back of my head for a while" before he settled on the idea of trying to capture the flavor of some landmark European cars. "I was talking people about their favorite cars of all time—Ferrari, E-type Jaguar, Aston-Martin.

What's special about those cars is

that they are all very sculptural.

The E-type, I thought, wouldn't it be

great if you could site some of

the feel of those cars and put it on

a four-door sedan. You have a

car that is visually exciting but

more practical than a sports

car—sort of thing the customer

you could own."

The car had come up with in-

corporates a streamlined silhouette, a tapered rear end and a low,

wide grille similar to those on

classic Ferraris. Like the In-

repid, the Cirrus also in-

cludes doors that are stamped as

a single unit to improve fit

and finish and reduce wind

noise, the current model uses

a separate, multi-piece door frame that is tricky to

assemble and prone to

quality problems. Beneath

the surface, there is a new

slamming rear-suspension

brace and a rubber

isolated front subframe

that is intended to reduce what

car engineers call NVH—noise,

vibration and harshness.

"Our customers were telling us

that the overall NVH of the current

model is not where it should be

with respect to the competition

that is out there today," Miller

says. "That led us to look at the

basic architecture of the car, to

figure out how we could redesign

it to make it stiffer, better-han-

dling and quieter."

Whether that effort was a suc-

cess will only be known when

the first Chrysler 300 sedans hit

the road next fall, with prices

reaching from about \$32,000 to

\$35,000, depending on options.

In fact, though, they will face stiff

competition: the Toyota Camry,

the Honda Accord and the Ford

Taurus are all strong sellers, while GM is also reviving its

lineup with a range of new four-door sedans.

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Judging by appearances, all those years spent sketching cars as a kid paid off handsomely. □

Deirdre McMurdy

The Bottom Line

Buy now, pay later

Call it global warming: Few things are

hotter in this era of international

trade than the business of mergers

and acquisitions.

Over the past several months

Canada's housing resource sector is par-

ticularly succumbing to the prevailing

fad. "It's beautiful," says John Price and

Steve Consolidated are on the verge of a

\$4.1-billion merger that will create the

world's largest resource miner. Another

paper-and-pulp major, Abitibi,

has tabled a

\$2.7-billion bid for Stroppe Enterprises.

In the aquaculture, where more than \$10 billion

of M&A deals were completed last

year alone, Gulf Coast Resources has just

spent \$1.7 million to acquire

Cyde Petroleum PLC. Talcus

Energy is bidding \$1.7

million to buy Southwest Energy.

And Northstar Energy just bagged Marathon Petroleum

for a \$683-million transaction.

Many of these companies

are themselves products of

past mergers. And as they continue

to buy up the air

space of this protracted

merger-fest, it's

becoming more difficult

to raise capital.

Corporate

mergers and acquisitions

are especially

tricky. That's always the risk that

imposing a

different culture will quash the innovative

spirit that made the target company

attractive in the first place.

Auto Computer

declined rapidly in the late 1980s after

its founder/ceo Steve Jobs was launched by

new management. It remains to be seen

whether its re-invention last year will reverse the slide.

Nowell's purchase of Word

Project—which has since passed into the

hands of Ottawa-based Cariel Corp.—and

Beauford's acquisition of Ashton Tate are

prime examples of thwarted attempts to buy

target companies.

There are also hidden costs for

investors when companies merge

or embark on a

takeover spree.

The Royal Bank is still grappling with the integration of its own units with the more aggressive troops at RBC Dominion Securities. The Royal's acquisition of family-owned Robertson Greenbank late last year had further complicated the process.

Meanwhile, at Canadian Airlines International, a company formed by the merger of more than half a dozen different airlines, employees often identify themselves as veterans of Wardair or Canadian Pacific Airlines more than a decade after those acquisitions.

Mergers and acquisitions can pass other costly problems. A study at Texas A&M University shows that corporations with

acquisition plans spend less on research and development.

Mergers and acquisitions usually create debt, and that siphons cash away from project spending. It also tends to enforce short-term financial goals, rather than longer-term strategic ones.

When it comes to entrepreneurial firms or technology ventures, corporate marriages are especially tricky. That's always the risk that imposing a different culture will quash the innovative spirit that made the target company attractive in the first place. Auto Computer declined rapidly in the late 1980s after its founder/ceo Steve Jobs was launched by new management. It remains to be seen whether its re-invention last year will reverse the slide. Nowell's purchase of Word Project—which has since passed into the hands of Ottawa-based Cariel Corp.—and Beauford's acquisition of Ashton Tate are prime examples of thwarted attempts to buy target companies.

There are also hidden costs for investors when companies merge or acquire. A study by consultants at Mercer Management reveals that over the past 10 years, 37 percent of North American companies that undertook M&A deals valued at \$500 million or more failed to generate shareholder returns equal to their industry average.

In short, big may be beautiful—but it's not always best.

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The Cuban pyjama crisis

EATONS DUMP DIVIDEND

The Eaton family said it will give back a \$10-million dividend that it collected from its banking department since then only three months before the company obtained court protection from its creditors. Lawyers for Eaton's and the retailer will also allow an accounting firm to probe all financial dealings among Eaton-owned firms.

SALARY CAP SHOT DOWN

Shareholders at the Royal Bank's annual meeting in Vancouver rejected a proposal to reduce the \$2.7 million paid last year to chairman and CEO John Cleghorn. Three other propositions put forward by Montreal activists Yes Montreal were also defeated.

FUEL DEAL FOR CANADIAN

The federal government and Canadian Airlines reached an agreement on fuel tax rebates to help revitalize the ailing airline. Under the deal, Canadian will exchange \$10 in tax losses for every dollar in rebates. Ottawa had proposed a 20-20-1 swap. The Calgary-based carrier is awaiting approval from creditors for a restructuring plan.

DESIARDINS DITCHES JOBS

The Movement des citoyens Québécois will cut more than 600 jobs—a fifth of its workforce—over three years to boost productivity. The announcement shocked unionized employees at Quebec's largest financial institution, who had expected no more than 2,000 jobs to be axed.

SATELLITE SHOWDOWN

Shaw Communications Inc. of Calgary, Canada's second-largest cable TV operator, paid \$95 million for a 56-per-cent stake in one of its satellite TV competitors, Star Choice Televisions Network Inc. of Peterborough. Shaw will merge its Homestar satellite TV operation with Star Choice, which plans to launch its service on April 30.

CANWEST TARGETS WIC

CarWest Global Communications Corp. is strengthening its influence over real WIC Western's International Communications Ltd. by expanding its share of non-voting WIC shares to 16 per cent from 9.7 per cent. "We hope to be consulted by WIC's management in their deliberations on WIC's future," a CanWest official said.

Executives at Wal-Mart Canada Ltd. are losing sleep over Cuban-made pyjamas. The company's decision to pull the sleepwear from its shelves prompted complaints from some shoppers in Winnipeg, forcing the U.S. chain to go public with its decision. The \$10 pyjama scandal frag Wal-Mart Canada's 126 stores when executives became worried that the company might be breaking U.S. laws that prevent trade with Cuba, including the helly-related Helms-Burton Act.

But in its basic, Wal-Mart may have broken a Canadian law. The Foreign Extraterritorial Measures Act forbids companies in Canada from observing U.S. trade embargoes. No firm has ever been charged under the act, which carries a maximum fine of \$1.5 million. By coincidence, the pyjama controversy blew up the same day Foreign Affairs Minister Lloyd Axworthy met U.S. Secretary of State



Albright, All right, a flag over imported sleepwear

Madeleine Albright to complain about Washington's anti-Cuba policies. U.S. officials applauded Wal-Mart's move, saying it represented a victory for Cuban democracy. Wal-Mart spokesman Ed Gould said the chain is seeking advice from lawyers and government officials on both sides of the border. "What do you do," he asked, "when you expose yourself to lawsuits on either side of the border?"

Plans for a McUnion

Hamburger flippers unite—that is the rallying cry from most of the employees at a McDonald's restaurant in St. Hubert, Quebec, who are hoping to become the first McDonald's workers in North America to unionize. The fast-food giant has previously fought hard to prevent unionization. Organizing efforts were defeated at a Longueuil, Quebec, outlet in

1993 and a franchisee in Orangefield, Quebec, in 1994. But the Technicians union, which hopes to represent 82 employees at the St. Hubert outlet, says that this time victory appears in the bag. Most of the St. Hubert workers are full time, and 82 per cent have signed a request for union certification. Employee Martin Tremblay, 38, said that after six years at the franchise, he makes only 20 cents more than Quebec's minimum wage of \$9.70 an hour.

FINANCIAL OUTLOOK

The construction industry is on the upswing. In January, the value of building permits was 18.7 per cent higher than a year ago. The residential sector was up 39.8 per cent. Non-residential construction still trails year ago levels but is expected to gain from the recently announced federal infrastructure program.

The country's inflation rate was unchanged in February at 3.7 per cent, but Statistics Canada reported that its index of inflation-weighted real GDP grew 1.6 per cent and is now 10.2 per cent higher than a year ago.

On Jan. 1—another sign that the province is struggling after years of above-average growth!

—Neubert Burns

"One of the economy grows much faster, as the Bank of Canada and other governments expect, the unemployment rate will remain stubbornly high as an improving job market draws more people into the labor force."

—GBC Wood Gandy



"With foreign direct investment in Canada continuing at a fever pitch (last year), direct investment abroad reached its highest level since 1987."

—Scotiabank



Peter C. Newman

The Liberals' agonizing election challenge

The Bloc are isolates. The NDP is invisible. The Tories are dormant. Reform is impossible. The Liberals are unbeatable. Those are the early odds, and that's why Jean Chrétien expects to spend most of the summer on the golf course—even if he keeps hoping that he wins an election to consolidate his achievements. The campaign will be vintage Liberal strategy, which will help explain how the party has earned, and continues to deserve, the title of Canada's "Natural Governing Party."

Having all but balanced the budget by scaling the Reform party's platform, while adapting the major policy planks initiated by Brian Mulroney's Conservatives—NAFTA, the GST and so on—the Liberals are ready to mollify their critics.

The scenario goes something like this: the deficit was drastically diminished mainly by shifting all functions to other levels of government. In effect, Ottawa's Health and Social Transfer has gained about \$7 billion from the provinces. At the same time, the Liberals have radically reduced social spending, presenting themselves as champions of fiscal responsibility, the kind of tough managers the Canadian economy deserves.

Now comes the election. It is the proving of job creation that will anchor the Liberal platform, and that will include—surprise, surprise—new social initiatives, such as the plan already announced in the budget to help cure our worst disgrace, child poverty. What do you know? Those heartbroken Liberals will turn out to be human after all? It's an amazing play. You was the election by arousing us into what we've just finished doing.

There is one problem to this cheerful forecast. At this uncomfortable juncture in national affairs, Canadians are not just for leadership, but for a vision of their future. Most people don't want governments to control—or subdue—their lives. But they do, desperately, need to be convinced that Canada will endure.

And that means of party leaders in the forthcoming campaign must deal with the issue of national unity. The NDP has joined the debate, for the moment. Terry Leader Jean Charest has yet to find a viable alternative to the policies under Mulroney, Preston Manning, so master how hard he tries, is destined to being nothing. This probably isn't a valid criticism, but it is true that he understands nothing of French Canada's pride of aspiration. For Reform to advocate a federal system in which Quebec has equal power to Prince Edward Island—which has twice the population of Charest's—just won't work.

Curiously, the Liberals have remained unity problematics of their own. Although they won't admit it, they're still stuck with pushing

for approval by the rest of the country of recognizing Quebec as a distinct society.

This is a non-starter for two reasons: a majority of the citizens of Alberta and British Columbia oppose such a move, not because they are anti-French or anti-Catholic, but because they believe all Canadians ought to be equal. In some semi-locality local politicians were to take on this pernicious cause, both provinces have laws that require holding a referendum before approving any constitutional changes. Charest also just a federal law in place shortly after slogging through the last Quebec referendum that allows both provinces to act as a regional veto over any constituent of inter-provincials.

At the same time, Quebec's sovereigntists are ("the least bit interested in having their province declared distinct." "I don't want a distinct society," former Parti Quebecois leader Jacques Parizeau reportedly declared). "I want a country," Lucien Bouchard has emphatically echoed that sentiment.

The scaled election has already taken a popular turn in Quebec. In an unusual move for a premier, Bouchard will be campaigning vigorously for one of the federal parties—the Bloc Quebecois—hoping to nudge Charest, whose Sherbrooke constituency voted Yes in the last referendum.

Charest must win at least 29 seats nationally to stay in contention for the next federal election in 2001. He runs a great campaign—

as he did in the 1995 referendum battle—but is beaten in his own riding, the situation would get really curious. He would immediately come under intense pressure to transfer into the provincial arena, since Liberal Leader Daniel Johnson is on the verge of being pushed out by his impatient followers. Bouchard, who has been a member of at least three parties, could logically switch Charest for switching loyalties. Charest would thus move from being in charge of a party decimated by the winter to a back-benching now senator in 1995 to being the man on whom the fate of the country would hang, as leader of the No side in the next referendum.

Assuming that Charest is re-elected, what he does in his first six months as the re-elected Prime Minister will be crucial. He will have our final chance to prove to Quebec that he can move the rest of Canada beyond supporting the status quo. That may be the only way to end the life of the next Quebec referendum, which will then be 16 months away. On the ranking after election night, the Quebec referendum countdown will begin.

For Charest to make a pre-emptive strike against Quebec separation at this critical point could condemn him to being the architect of Canada's demise—the country's last prime minister.

The biggest challenge to the Liberals is not winning an election day, but coming up with a winning formula on national unity on the morning after.

Chrétien faces the real possibility that he could be the architect of Canada's demise—the country's last prime minister



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Diane Francis

When famous families lose their touch

It was ironic that on March 8—just two days after Eaton's filed for bankruptcy protection—a soiree was staged at the Eaton Centre in Toronto to celebrate the mall's 20th anniversary. Calling it a "Salon to the city," organizers threw the bash for 250 of its dubbed "Toronto's most outstanding people." For two hours or so, we reached out on canapés and mingled around a stage in front of Eaton's flagships store. Pre-Eaton was among the honorees and in a quiet moment, he wryly commented to me: "Trading is everything, isn't it?"

The observation was appropriate. He was being honored just as the family business tattered on the brink, threatening the Eaton family into a harsh public spotlight. Of course, the timing of the event had been determined months before. And the sudden decision to seek protection was not a case of gaffe but a case of reality finally triumphing over hope. Sustained losses continued to mount and the halo of Eaton's past had worn thin. The resulting empire founded by Timothy Eaton more than a century and a quarter ago had been in trouble for a few years, along with many other retail empires. And as other businesses before had discovered, Eaton's problems eventually became worldwide—the result of strategic mistakes and changing times.

As with any such outcome, the fallout will be far-reaching. Suppliers and creditors will be out of pocket, stores will close and people will lose jobs. It is tragic when a business begins to fail and double tragic when it is a household word. But I believe Eaton's will survive as a scaled-down store chain.

The blow to the Eaton families' retail empire also has another significance. It marks the diminution of another of the 32 Canadian families identified in a 1988 book, *Controlling Powers: Who Owns Canada?*

That book estimated those 32 families controlled a staggering one-third of the country's corporate assets. I worried about the dangers of such familial economic concentration of power and called for proper competition laws and free trade to open up Canada's marketplace. Since then, 15 of the 32 families have fallen on hard times, at the very least, more difficult times. And while we doomsayers remain, it is hardly necessary the facts are that the Scotia expansion "which leaves a like-lifeless in three generations" has been taken over. Concentration of economic power in a dynamic, competitive marketplace merely remains in the same hands forever.

That is because no proprietor is perfect and able to outdistance all competitors. No owner can always forge the correct strategies in Canada. Too many successful families had made their fortunes simply because they were already wealthier than most rivals. They also were protected from foreign rivals thanks to tariff barriers

and they were allowed to knock around smaller competitors as a result of Canada's thoroughly inadequate competition and stock market securities regulations. But since the mid-1980s, that has no longer been the case.

Given new competition laws backed in, they contributed towards busting up the unusually marketplace concentrations, giving consumers a break and other entrepreneurs new opportunities. Equally helpful in terms of providing consumer choice and busting up Canada's family trusts was the North American Free Trade Agreement plus the 1994 ratification of the Uruguay Round of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade.

Among the 13 family casualties were the Rothmans, Steinbergs, Belbergs, Postleths, Reitmans, Manos, Ghermanatos, Lanes, and now the Eatons. Most remain in business but are mere shadows of their former selves, worth considerably less now than in 1988, just 11 years ago.

The other four families whose empires are gone, but have been diminished, dissolved or altered measurably are the McCains, the Bentons, the Malsons, and the vast Bent-Elder holdings of the late Peter Bentelius (older brother Edward was bought out before trouble struck). All have suffered huge financial setbacks.

The reasons for these finance or shakeups vary. Retail woes plagued the Eatons, Steinbergs, Robert Coopers, the Postleths and Ghermanatos. The Reitmans, Manos, Lanes and Hess-Elder assets suffered from too much debt and the collapse of overvalued real estate assets. The Bentons lost and stems on a massive coal mining scheme and mounting debts. The Malsons, owners of steel giant Inco, suffered the double whammy of steel downturns and heavy borrowings. The Malsons have been selling off non-ferrous assets and facing more competition than ever before in their beer business. As for the McCains, the family has retooled their business, but the family has been splintered as a result of a fraternal feud.

Concentration of economic power still exists in Canada but its size, relative to the economy as a whole, has been greatly diminished. New players have filled the vacuum left by these families, the Bentons have been sold or merged or amalgamated, and vast new fortunes have been made by immigrants and other newcomers in the high-tech, resource and retail sectors.

The unfortunate downside of the Eaton retail chain underscores the fact that free enterprise is about failures as well as successes. The Eatons made mistakes in running their stores. But they should not be glorified or pitied. They rolled the dice, as many smart investors must do, and lost. They have paid an enormous price. But the Canadian economy will continue to roll on. Only the names change. And the names are not forever.

Concentration of economic power still exists in Canada, but a new breed is rising to make their own vast fortunes



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**Stress on Grassroots
Proud, Yusting
neighbourhoods,
houses don't fit in
the tree-top."**

COVER

City of Imagination

BY ROBERT FULFORD

Before the real city could be seen it had to be imagined, the way rumours and tall tales were a kind of charting...

—Michael Ondrejka,
In the Skin of a Lion

The great secret of Toronto is its passion. There are those who doubt that any such force exists: the idea of Toronto as a costly efficient money machine, an ATM with streets, dies hard. But the political season has thrown an unusual light on forests. At the moment, the city—or, at least, a significant and highly articulate part of it—is passionately upset, passionately resolute, passionately defensive.

Believing that themselves, Toronto has reacted with an explosion of angry political action. Fences citizens have been shooting at their provincial MPs in public meetings, banners and signs have blossomed everywhere, and the city government asked the citizens to vote on a question whose wording was so ridiculous because it would embarrass the Progressive Conservatives. "Are you in favor of eliminating the city of Toronto and all other existing municipalities in Metropolitan Toronto and amalgamating them into a megacity?"

The answer was No, of course, overwhelmingly (the suburbs also voted No). How could it be otherwise? Who in the world could vote for eliminating the city of Toronto? As for megacity, it evokes *metropoli-bots*, an abrupt form of civic elimination. Of course, no one plans to eliminate anything, except some jobs in the public service and policies. You could say, with as much accuracy, that what's likely to happen will enlarge and strengthen the city of Toronto. The Ontario government, which has constitutional responsibility for all the municipalities, plans to restructure the councils of Toronto. The city now runs on a kind of federal system—a megalopolitan government to provide certain broad services for everyone, plus six regional councils to provide local services. There's a council for the old city of Toronto, and one each for five suburbs, like Scarborough and North York—which

are called, with blisful inaccuracy, "cities." This arrangement is now 43 years old, and the most striking thing about it is that almost nobody outside government, the media and the land development business understands how it works. Most of the citizens probably know that the police are under Metrolinx control, but few citizens could tell you which level of government runs the fire halls (they're local), the playgrounds (Metrolinx), or the libraries (they're local). Nor does anyone know why the power is divided this way. Everybody is represented by a local councillor and a Metro councillor, but few of us even know their names (in truth, Toronto people don't much like to vote in local elections). A turnout of one-third of eligible voters, which would be a disgrace in a federal or provincial election, is considered not bad in local elections across Metro. People get elected who are often enough to advocate a lot of local issues. The late William Kilbourn, an author and professor who was famous for an oldman for a while, called Toronto elections "name-recognition contests."

Is this the democracy Toronto is lighting to save? Are the citizens informed by changes in a political system to which they normally pay only minimal attention? There are other, more legitimate proposals on the table, such as changes in welfare funding that may cost the city billions. Some of the opposition to One Big Toronto is a spillover of indignation from those issues. But the real anger has been created by amalgamation itself. To understand why people are upset, we need to understand "Toronto's city of dreams," a place in which a multitude of citizens have slowly and reluctantly invested deep emotions. The citizens may not know how the place runs, but they know their home is it, and they can grow hysterical over any suggestion that it significantly changes.

Toronto is a big city that dreams of being little. It admires smaller, more intimate towns with the mind of a village. Neighbourhoods are the focus of local politics, right across Metro-Toronto. In 1971, the Ontario government of Bill Davis, regarding the province's traditional right to control the other's cancelled plans for the Spanish Expressway, which would have ripped through the downtown core and probably ruined certain districts, such as the Annex, soon after David Crombie became mayor of the city on a pro-neighbourhood platform, he wrote the head honcho in a press release, and ever since he took office the desire to preserve the quality of local life has been spreading out, from downtown to the distant corners of the suburbs. There's no logical reason why The Big Toronto what also preserve neighbourhoods, but you can't prove that it does in advance—and many Torontonians prefer not to take the chance. They don't want anything to endanger even a slightly the city of which they're passionately proud.

Toronto's pride is all the more powerful for being recent, in fact, it dates back the mid-1980s. Toronto were more than willing to apologize for their city. The rest of Canada didn't. Toronto—it was considered too rich, too busy and too shallow. Visitors found the place flat and banal. So the locals learned to diagram their belief outside, over and over again, that they were eager to declare, over and over again, that they lived in The Shun of a City.

The flat version of The Shun of a City has made Ontario the most famous Toronto writer in the last 20 years, but he's only one of a dozen or so distinguished novelists who have helped create the mythical Toronto



A city of dreams, a metropolis with the mind of a village



■ Flower shop on Avenue Road; Davies (left) writing Toronto in brilliant literary tales that share an *Abelard* and *Deng*.



since the flower will continue to live near each other and will do so for as they know encounter each other for the rest of their lives.

Davies's books, though he never intended them as such, can be seen mostly as essays about the good and bad of neighborhood life, as democratized in Toronto—his characters have relatively secure lives,



but within a network of obligations. In 1957, his *Never-Do-Well* produces, in some readers' minds, for a lost world, in others it will induce gratitude for the more or less decent codes of today.

In Callaghan's day, it was unusual for a Toronto writer to place as much emphasis as he did on the texture of the city. Since then, it has become common. At first, he looked to some readers like a rather limited figure, a studly product of the old British Protestant ascendancy, but those who followed him were disconcerted without an appreciation to a wide variety of influences. Davies was a reader who could probably catch the tone of life in his adopted city, and at the same time a dilettante whose Torontoanism shared their lives with sonic situations, angles and tools. In the last quarter of a century, he wrapped Toronto inside a series of brilliant fairy tales that drew on Bohemia, and C. G. Jung, Stavros, the rich businesses of Fifth Avenue, found lost at the bottom of Toronto harbour, sitting in his Callaghan, his mouth filled with a large chunk of pink amaretto, was the first of a series of sensational Davies characters. He invited us to accept partly on, as he said, "the descent into the depths of the spirit." Mythologizing Toronto, turning everyday gossip about leading citizens into grand fables, he gave the city a myth book sign of enormous power, thick with local detail but universal in its meaning.

Margaret Atwood's accomplishment has been on less noble and no less local. She brilliantly explores the spirit of the city in two Toronto-centred novels, *Life Before Man* and *The Robber Bride*, the first focused on the Royal Ontario Museum, the second encompassing the Annex. And *Carrie's War*, her terrifying novel of childhood, also her readers' via the landscape that is chronologically and spatially Toronto's. The ironies, Tribulations of life, even the flow southward to Lake Ontario through Mississauga. Toronto, the names symbolic, everything good and bad in Toronto. They're the topographical signature of the city; no other metropolis has something running through it. As the author Larry Richards once pointed out, Toronto is like San Francisco, turned upside down. You may not see it, but as topographical names isn't clearly evident, the way San Francisco is. People can visit Toronto and say anything they'd like. Actually, Toronto is a city of hills, but many of them are buried and most of them are hidden.

It's occasionally said that life in Toronto has a kind of fatefully quirk-



■ Awarded
Michaels above
Moore Park
(left) owners
at the city's
suburbanness

but within a network of obligations. In 1957, his *Never-Do-Well* produces, in some readers' minds, for a lost world, in others it will induce gratitude for the more or less decent codes of today.

In Callaghan's day, it was unusual for a Toronto writer to place as much emphasis as he did on the texture of the city. Since then, it has become common.

Beginning with his most important novel, *Fifth Business* (1970), Robertson Davies begins to develop a comprehensive picture of Mississauga, the University of Toronto, Bay Street and Upper Canada College. At first, he looked to some readers like a rather limited figure, a studly product of the old British Protestant ascendancy, but those who followed him were disconcerted without an appreciation to a wide variety of influences. Davies was a reader who could probably catch the tone of life in his adopted city, and at the same time a dilettante whose Torontoanism shared their lives with sonic situations, angles and tools. In the last quarter of a century, he wrapped Toronto inside a series of brilliant fairy tales that drew on Bohemia, and C. G. Jung, Stavros, the rich businesses of Fifth Avenue, found lost at the bottom of Toronto harbour, sitting in his Callaghan, his mouth filled with a large chunk of pink amaretto, was the first of a series of sensational Davies characters. He invited us to accept partly on, as he said, "the descent into the depths of the spirit." Mythologizing Toronto, turning everyday gossip about leading citizens into grand fables, he gave the city a myth book sign of enormous power, thick with local detail but universal in its meaning.

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It's occasionally said that life in Toronto has a kind of fatefully quirk-



COVER

The great discoverers of the city turned out to be immigrants



■ Pauline Kael (page 60), (bottom left) awakening Torontonians to their own history

ing, a certain habit of evasion, a weakness for secret codes. If that's true, then so are the novices. This is where Torontonians do a lot of their growing up, and first encounter culture, in a hidden world that outsiders seldom see. The novices are the suburbanites of Toronto, the city's half-hidden, little-known underside. In a certain way they are descendants of semi-detached money-spenders like a private club; there are few members, and not many entrances. Old Torontonians leave the man-childhood. New Torontonians have to be guided in.

What makes the novices so startling and so vulnerable is their naivete, the sudden and shocking change from ordered street life to disorderly nature—wildflowers, dogs, trees, meadows, even families of coyotes. This participation in one's native soil the novices have upgraded to writers. In the 1990s, three of Toronto's most absorbing first novelists have used the stories as a major focus—American by Douglas Coupland (1991), *Maniac Taxi* by Catherine Bush (1993) and *Pageant* (shortly after Michaela's (1994). In *Maniac*, Coupland describes a Toronto native as a place that mocks the planned order of the city. At the end of the street, class replaces planning. It is "where the city continued with the darkness." It was part of a network of wild spaces that faced the body of the city like a vast of nests. To Coupland's characters, the novices are the managers on the edge of the known.

Catherine Bush's *Maniac Taxi*, one of the most Toronto-centric of recent novels, puts much of the action in the CN Tower and Nathan Phillips Square, but locates several wild sections in the novices. A young man named Foster tells us: "When I was 13, I ran away from home and lived in the ravines by Ryerson for over a week." While the ravines, the arrows-paved over by the Bayview St. (started out in Wilfrid Circle Park and made my way down, south of the Science Centre, down towards the Dan Valley Parkway). Eventually he got tired of it, settled in a parking lot,

and only sometimes telephoned his parents. This switch-case describes one of the great advantages of life in Toronto: a child can escape into wilderness without venturing more than a mile from home.

The rich and image-laden *Pageant* (written by Alan Michaels) describes to uncover the nature of Toronto than my recent novel *Flaws*. The two men who dominate much of my story hurry into the city of Toronto and take possession of it. They are immigrants from Europe, but in Toronto, Michaels says, "almost everyone has come from elsewhere—bringing with them their different ways of dying and marrying, their kitchens and songs." His characters discover Toronto as a city of interconnected stories. "Through these great stinken gardens you can traverse the city beneath the streets, look up to the flaking neighborhood houses, houses built in the treetops." This is a place in "forgotten corners, abandoned quarries... a city built in the bowl of a prehistoric lake." If one prefers, she species of the elusive bottomless in summer, no "means of access, staples."

When they succeed, these civic entrepreneurs at first both love we think about a city and how we live, of course, no longer dominate the mind of a society. Some of these writers, in fact, are read by only a tiny minority that, when they make their home town a home for the imagination, then myth loops through the city, flows into the stream of oral history, and shapes conversational grids. It has subtly transformed Toronto, giving it a porous, many-layered story. What motivates the politics of culture in Toronto is the perhaps overblown fear of losing this lovely thing, only body was.



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The fight for TORONTO

BY JOE CHIDLEY

It is an unwritten code of conduct for big-city life: avoid speaking to strangers on the public transit system—and if talking to a dead, keep it down, please. So ingrained is that protocol that when a group of Toronto teenagers started talking loudly on the Gerrard streetcar one late February afternoon, the discontent among other passengers was almost palpable. It was only half-joking when one of the kids, a long-haired girl in a green boiler jacket, actually addressed an older stranger: "How are you going to vote on mega-city? You gonna vote 'No, man,'" she remarked, unbroken. Before he could respond, another teenaged girl in "I'd rather be home" pajamas hissed: "It's gonna happen anyway—Scarborough's gonna to get sucked up by Toronto—Scarborough's so small." The stranger, getting a word in edgewise, pointed out that Scarborough and Toronto are, in fact, about the same size: "Really?" said the second teen, her nose-rolling matching with curiosity. "I didn't realize my subway station, Kennedy—That station's massive," interjected Teen No. 2. "Anyway, around there, it's pretty small."

For once, strangers are talking to one another in Toronto. And what's got them talking—over the teenagers—is municipal politics, something Torontonians usually find so uninteresting that only about a third of them vote in municipal elections. But in Toronto—that's something almost no one in the rest of the country loves to hate—these are unusual times. The city is in the grip of Mass Mutation, and a meeting of brains has been played out on the civic stage. To the west, the Conservatives and their supporters, it's a tabled solid municipal policy and sound fiscal management. But to many Torontonians, who fear that the province's reforms will destroy their city, it has taken on the proportions of a horror movie—*MegaCity: The Toy Masters* after *Aliens*.

The plot goes something like this: Last December, the provincial government introduced Bill 103, which as of next year will unify the area's six municipalities, along with the regional government of Metropolitan Toronto, into a single city of about 8.5 million people—Toronto the Great becomes Toronto the Huge. It might seem a relatively innocuous bit of legislative tinkering, but with the proposed amalgamation, the provincial government stepped boldly—some say blindly—into a political minefield.

Opposition to the bill, scheduled for final reading in the provincial legislature next month, was immediate. And the cries of outrage—remarkably loud for such a politely staid city—have come from rich and poor, left and right. The protest could be heard at any of the 20 or so community meetings at which amalgamation has been discussed every week for the past three months, or even on the myriad "Vote No to mega-city" signs outside homes and businesses. Last week, 16 referendums sponsored by the six municipalities—all of whose mayors oppose the mega-city—were voted down in a rejection of amalgamation by Toronto residents. Three-quarters of participating voters (turnout was, again, about one-third) said No to the megacity. Provincial officials, who charged that the referendum

questions were biased and that the voters' lists were unreliable, had repeatedly vowed to ignore the results. But last week's No vote still sent them scrambling for damage control, even as they vowed that amalgamation will continue.

The provincial plan for Toronto is, in fact, a radical piece of legislation, and its effects will transcend the borders of the new city. The unified Toronto will be a virtual citystate, surpassing the populations of six provinces and rivalling that of Alberta (population 2.7 million). The new Toronto will be bigger than any American city except New York, Los Angeles and Chicago. Ultimately, the new city will also be leaner and more efficient than the old one: the government projects cost savings of \$865 million by the year 2000, thanks to less waste, fewer politicians—and the elimination of as many as 4,500 civil service jobs. An amalgamated Toronto will "have a strong, unified voice to sell itself internationally," in the global mar-

A proposed merger draws cries of outrage from rich and poor, right and left



ketplace, bosky Municipal Affairs Minister Al Leach. "We have the potential to take a great city and make it even greater."

Many Torontonians, however, clearly do not buy Leach's argument. They fear that amalgamation, by reducing the number of municipalities from 44 to the current 106, will dilute their political voice and make local government less responsive. Others are concerned that property taxes will rise—not only because of amalgamation but also because of ongoing provincial plans to reform the tax system and to offload the cost of social services onto the municipalities. Still others simply do not like the way the Tories have gone about mega-city planning—and use loaded words like "tyranny" and "dictatorship" to prove their point.

But the real trouble for the Tories is that few Torontonians think about the city in terms of the "global marketplace"; sure, they are





Family life in a downtown neighborhood; implied 'Vote No to megacity' signs on houses



Bakery in the West Village; Sewell in Ryersons (right); the strong 'No' vote and provincial officials assembling for damage control



Toronto the Good becomes Toronto the Huge

survived until, as Fisher says, now did last November. Toronto is rated as the best place in the world to balance work and family. But they remain and are as much to the size of the city as to the idea of neighborhood communities like Cabbagetown, Baby Point or the Beaches, street designations like the Kingway or the Danforth, even—as with the teenager from Scarborough—the subway stop near their homes. To them, amalgamation seems a threat to their sense of community, to the places they call home. "It won't go down the street, it would be funny," says City of Toronto Mayor Barbara Hall. "It makes no sense, they've not thought it through, and yet it has the potential to seriously damage community that is the envy of the world."

This worry is echoed by North York Mayor Mel Lastman, a passionate civic booster who gets really upset when he talks about the megacity. At a recent non-amalgamation rally—one of many at which he and the other mayors have spoken out—he waved around the province's map of the new municipal boundaries. "You won't find North York anywhere on the map! North York is gone!" Lastman bellowed. "We're learning real 'They're coming up like a turkey and it's over Thanksgiving'."

Still, few who have seriously studied the problems facing Toronto say that the status quo is acceptable. In the current division of powers, the Municipality of Metropolitan Toronto provides about 70 per cent of services, including police, ambulances, sewage, water and public transit, across the entire area. But the rest of the municipal structure is a complex patchwork of individual city bylaws governing roads, health, garbage collection and planning. And there is redundancy: the Toronto area has six different fire departments, each with its own fire chief and training facilities. For their confusion results from the fact that some services are provided both by the Metro government and by the individual cities. Some roads are owned by Metro, others by the local municipality

"People don't know what's going on, people get confused and angry and afraid, because it's complicated," says Patricia Petersen, director of the urban studies program at the University of Toronto and a supporter of amalgamation. "The current system is not conducive to developing any reasonable discussion on issues that really matter to us."

Underlying, there is no consensus on the best way to address these problems. Last winter, a provincial task force led by then-Cabinet Minister of Finance, Gordon Galley, suggested that the Metro-style of government be dissolved and that the other 13 municipalities, reduced in number to four, become part of a new government—the Greater Toronto Area, or GTA, encompassing Toronto and the surrounding area. Then, the Who Does What Advisory Panel, chaired by former Toronto mayor (and friend) Tony cabinet minister David Crombie, endorsed a strong urban core for the GEA and some degree of consolidation

in the metropolitan area—but not specifically amalgamation. Another scheme, developed last year by Toronto-area mayors, opted for the abolition of regional governments, including Metro, with accountable coordinating services among partners.

The Crombie panel had, as part of their costing platform, promised in the last election to get rid of at least one level of Toronto government. And according to Municipal Affairs Minister Lewis, they at first considered dissolving Metro—but decided last fall that would be too complicated. "How do you dissolve down the way when that is provided by Metro?" he says. "The longer we looked at it, the more obvious it was that with the majority of major services already at the upper tier, the right option was a single city."

And then the trouble really started for the Tories in Toronto. On one side amalgamation was the process. These days, amalgamation all the rage in Ontario, where about 250 municipalities are now merging mergers. In Kingston, for instance, city and county mar-



THE CITY: a radical piece of legislation that will transform the borders of the city

trial and undemocratic. And it is what particularly sticks in the craw of John Sewell, the former Toronto mayor and local newspaper columnist who has galvanized anti-amalgamation forces as a leader of Citizens for Local Democracy. "I live in a democracy, and I want control over people who make decisions for me," says Sewell, whose group's weekly newsletters have regularly attracted more than 1,400 concerned Torontonians for the past two months. "The Tories are saying, 'You can't have it any more, we've got a better idea'—which is putting us back in chaos." The voters' question created a political embarrassment for the government in late March, when an Ontario Court judge ruled that their appointment by executive order, before Bill 103 had passed, had no standing in law.

During practical hearings on the largely bottom-line-laden bill last week, speakers often spoke up to voice their concern over the Tory reforms. Among the most articulate was Jim Jacobs, the American-born architect and author of the influential *The Good and Evil of Great American Cities*. "Anyone who suggests harmony will prevail and efficiency reigns in what-happens-in-every-city

and Jacobs a Toronto resident for the past 30 years, "has taken leave of common sense."

Other critics, like federal NDP Leader Alexa McDonough, questioned the government's claim that amalgamation will save money. McDonough pointed out that in her home town of Halifax, which joined in 1996 with Dartmouth and two other municipalities, transportation costs have soared to \$82 million—more than double what the Nova Scotia government projected. Still others claimed that amalgamation in Toronto will also drive up long-distance costs. At a meeting, they argued, would eliminate competition among municipalities and add expenses of providing equal services to a wider area, and result in higher labor costs thanks to larger payroll units.

The Conservatives' stance, meanwhile, also fuelled public opposition. A month after introducing Bill 103, the province announced a sweeping package of other municipal reforms over a seven-year period dubbed Mega-Met. This included adopting a new propo-



Crombie: a strong urban core

osalites have been working towards amalgamation for the past 10 years. And in Brampton, a constituent assembly has developed a amalgamation plan that would replace existing municipalities with one Brampton-Wentworth authority. Although these schemes have not been uniformly popular (Brampton-area residents voted against amalgamation in a February referendum), they at least add another local input.

But not in Toronto. The Tories sent Bill 103 straight to first reading without releasing a position paper, as would have been usual with such major reforms. And in the legislature itself, the government has much of the control over existing municipalities to an appointed Interim board of trustees, whose decisions would be final. These laws would be followed by another appointed body—a transition team to assist in the implementation of the megacity—with many of the same powers.

It was a handball tactic that, to many critics, seemed both dicta-

erty tax formula, called actual value assessment. Tax reform has long been a contentious issue in Toronto, and some downtown homeowners will probably see their property taxes rise substantially under the new scheme. At the same time, the province unveiled plans to remove \$6.4 billion in education bills from municipal property taxes—but then download \$6.4 billion in service costs to the municipalities, with the difference made up by a \$1-billion reserve fund. The most controversial change was that municipalities would share the costs of welfare equally with the province, where before they paid only 20 per cent. The City of Toronto estimated that, together with other social-service costs, the welfare shift would cost property taxpayers \$802 million.



■ Mayor Miller (left): 'You won't find North York anywhere as the isn't'

assuredly. Even the Board of Trade of Metropolitan Toronto and Councillor Jim Crozier, found the developments hard to swallow. "It's an egregious error," said Crozier, who supports amalgamation. "It's just as though they went to a baseball game and tried to score a home run."

In the minds of many Torontonians, amalgamation projects too reforms and downscaling all add up to something less than a Conservative conspiracy to ruin the city. "They're driven by people who resent the big city"—Finance Minister Jim Eves and Mike Harris, declared Sewell. "They're both small-town guys; they're out of their depth in the city, they resent it, and they're going to gut and gelt." Leah, a 30-something Torontonian, acknowledges that he has the government not been under a self-imposed time constraint to enact municipal reform by the end of 1997. "I would have kept the issues separate—dealt with amalgamation, and done that separately without some of the other things."

nequal split on welfare funding. But Sewell and Harris have also made it clear—referrals or not—that the megacity will go ahead, or less as planned.

Like many others, City of Toronto Mayor Hull predicts dire consequences for downtown neighbourhoods like Cabbagetown, where she has lived for the past 20 years: a flight of the middle class, declining infrastructure, more poor people on the streets, sitting over a supermarket in a waist, trendily call recently—as patrons regularly come up to say, "Hi—Hull knows something positive is ailing from the megacity." Whatever happens, big change will come from it," she says. "People have to wait their communities at risk, and have just one and a half energy into one group and talking about things. I don't believe that will disappear—people will stay involved and find ways to take responsibility in civic life." If that prediction turns out to be true, there might be hope for the megacity after all. □

Smokeless in Hogtown

The woman who owns the cafe is nervous—her customers are, after all, breaking the law. In a corner, about 20 nicotine smokers puff away in defiance of Toronto's tough new antismoking bylaw, which came into effect on March 3. The owner, exasperated, says she has asked smokers to butt out, only to have others light up. "Some of them act like my brothers and sisters—I see them more than my children," she says. "They say to me, 'Are you not ashamed?'"

So it was last week, as Toronto the Good tried to live up to its name. Adopted last July, the bylaw禁止smoking in all restaurants and bars. Businesses can build a costly enclosed and separately ventilated room for their smoking clientele—up to 25 per cent of seating capacity—though most are waiting to see if the bylaw survives the proposed megacity amalgamation of Toronto with five other municipalities. In the meantime, owners are posting the required no-smoking signs and, according to the bylaw, issuing verbal warnings to smokers. "All they have to say to them is that 'it is my duty to inform you that you are smoking in a prohibited area'—it ends there," says Pamela Scherf, Toronto's environmental health manager. "They don't have to say, 'But I'll out, skip outside or I'm not going to serve you.'

Which raises the issue of enforcement. About 25 inspectors plan to visit all 3,500 affected establishments by the end of this month, and issue owners notices detailing their degree of compliance. Those visits will be followed up with spot checks (the city also has a specialized search unit). Fines range from \$200 to \$15,000. But as long as no-smoking signs are posted and warnings issued, establishments cannot be charged. As for smokers breaking the bylaw, health inspectors have no power to force them to produce identification. So, Scherf concedes, "you can't give a [ticket] if you don't know who the person is."

The immediate effect of the new regulation was to empty many establishments—particularly the small shops that rely on coffee-break business. And while organizations such as the Canadian Cancer Society cheered the new bylaw, many business owners and smokers were left fuming. "Are they going to be in our business next?" asked one woman while defiantly dragging on a cigarette in a financial-district coffee shop. "This is going to be a waste." Perhaps. Despite the ban on smoking, the air in Toronto has certainly not been cleared.

DAWUD HANALEKWA

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MARINA BICKENS

Learning to savor Stern

With Toronto screenwriter Leo Blane was approached about turning Howard Stern's 1988 autobiography, *Private Parts*, into a movie script, Blane was not receptive. "I said 'I am a stooge,'" was Blane's initial response. He was not alone even though Stern's syndicated radio program has 18 million U.S. listeners, many of them love to hate the shock jock for his extravagantly racist, sexist and generally lewd and cringe-worthy remarks. But producer Ivan Reitman—a fellow Canadian with whom Blane had worked on previous movie projects, including the 1979 comedy *Meatballs*—convinced him not to make up his mind until after he had met Stern. "I was still frightened of him," recalls Blane of the meeting two years ago, "but I also realized that I had never laughed harder in my life." So he took on the screenwriting task this movie *Private Parts* opened on March 13 in the process, Blane grew to like and respect Stern, not only for his devotion to his wife, Alison, and their three children, but also for his uncompromising. Says Blane: "He is just out to fight hypocrisy in an aggressive, unassisted way."

On top Down Under

The golf season started poorly for **Gilligan**. The 33-year-old resident from Oliver, B.C., missed the cut in two of the first three tournaments she played in 1997. But she began to turn her fortunes in late



Stew, Alison
From *part* to *reverence*



Norman with jazz, it's strictly the music'

Resonant rhythms

A 5-foot-tall musician, Toronto percussionist **Jim Norman** knows he is unlikely to burst onto the scene with the sudden impact of, say an *Aerosmith* Merleiro. But eccentric is just as unlikely the world of pop and rock, which are littered with one-off wonders, can be measured in terms of accolades, skill or longevity. And a long shelf life is just what 48-year-old Norman—whose unique rhythmic compositions 36 drums, 15 cymbals and a host of other percussion instruments, including gongs and chimes—is hoping. His debut CD, *Time Changes*, *Time Changes*, will achieve *Released in Canada in August, 1995, then in Europe and the United States, and finally in Asia, his music, the usually atmospheric CD, has been garnering the kind of notices certain to keep it going strong. jeans the *Seattle* *US* jazz publication has called it "a breath of fresh, filtered air." Meanwhile, world-renowned sambaphone player *Oliver Lake* and Japanese bongo player *Tiger-i Okoshi* have joined Norman's band and will work on his next CD, due out late this year. "We jazz, it's strictly the music," says Norman. "You can't fake that."*

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An officer and a pent-up man

One of the hardest things that actor **Gabriel Hogan** had to learn for his part as *Pavle Balenovic*, a CBC TV drama about Croatian soldiers serving in Croatia in 1992 and 1993, was how not to show too much emotion. "Usually, an actor is thinking about how to project to the back row," says Hogan, 28, who plays Balenovic, a

young United Nations commander stuck in the middle of warring Serbs and Croatians in an uneasy ceasefire. "But Balenovic is a trained officer who's not about to show weakness." The actor says he and his fellow cast and crew members recognize that the March 18 airing of the drama's broadcast—the 10th of the series and Hogan's second—is significant. "This movie is about a soldier's story, not a political overview of Yugoslavia," says Hogan. "I'm proud of it."

Education

A class of their own

At first glance, it looks like any high school anywhere in Canada: students flock with students winding their way to class, backpacks slung over their shoulders. But for Mathieu Rémille, who competed last month in the Canadian figure-skating championships in Vancouver, and Isabelle Pearson, a brawny bell in jeans, Ecole Secondaire de Montagnes in Boucherville, Que., it's just not just a place to develop their minds and hang out with their friends. For almost 300 promising young athletes, de Montagnes also provides an excellent environment in which to hone their sporting skills. As Rémille heads to class each afternoon following an intense morning of figure skating, Pearson has already packed away her books and is hitting the rink. On most days, however, sugar and more training should be had for both. It is a huge investment, but one that both athletes embrace with enthusiasm. "We are very lucky," says Rémille. "It's a part of a program like this."

Making school more user-friendly to athletes with intensive training schedules is ex-

actly what de Montagnes set out to do in 1985 when it launched one of Canada's first dedicated sports school programs. From an initial enrollment of nine figure-skaters, the program has mushroomed to almost one-tenth of the school's 3,900 students. Their special-

Young athletes thrive in schools that cater to their demanding schedules

ties encompass 11 different sports—from teams and leagues to basketball and swimming. Roughly 50 other schools now run similar programs, and in 1994 the National Sport School, whose share of a grant of \$4,000, opened its doors in Calgary. But de Montagnes remains unique in its largest and most renowned such programs to operate within a traditional public high school. Says John Balon, president of the Coaching Association of Canada: "It is the model of the sports school we would like to

see in operation across the country."

While they remain relatively new, such schools have been a boon to Canadian athletes performing in an increasingly competitive international arena. "The performance levels are so high," says Jean-Guy Dutil, president of SportsQuébec, which represents 60 sports federations. "We can no longer reconcile the number of hours of training and a regular school program—they are incompatible." Among those who have benefited from de Montagnes's unusual mix of academics and athletics is figure-skater Isabelle Bourassa, who won a bronze medal with partner Lloyd Eiler at the 1994 Olympics in Lillehammer, Norway. The school has also been a training ground for some of the country's best tennis players. The current crop includes Marie-Ève Pelletier, 14, the Canadian junior national champion, as well as Sébastien Larou, ranked second nationally in men's singles, and Sébastien Lefebvre, ranked fourth.

In order to ensure a high degree of success in the classroom, de Montagnes requires above-average entering grades for all those admitted. Once in, students are assigned to a team of teachers who work extra and teachers. In addition, the school, classically with the athletes—becoming employees a full-time physiotherapist and a mentor with both their academic needs and post-sports psychological.

their extracurricular schedules. In the past, de Montagnes also offers another perk: athletes were often marginalized, says provost to athletic success flexibility. Students' gym director, Marie-Yves De Moerloose, are free to travel to competitions throughout



Isabelle Bourassa, Olympic drama

the school year. Tennis player Pelletier has already missed three months of classes since September. Like other students, she takes along school work when she travels, which can be faxed back to her teacher or handed in upon return. Rémille missed a week of school last month to take part in the

national figure-skating championships, where he and his partner, Mélanie Aïdak, placed second in the novice dance category.

Despite the evident success of the de Montagnes program and others like it, observers say just what is needed now is a similar commitment on the part of Canada's colleges and universities to nurture—and finance—young athletes. "It's a concern," says Dan Smith, acting director general of Sport Canada. "We would like to keep our athletes in Canada, but in some sports—the basketball and hockey—U.S. scholarships are a reality."

Still, for students like Rémille and Pearson, de Montagnes has clearly been a godsend. Sitting in class and proudly sporting his national team jacket, Rémille takes a break from his French homework to talk about his hopes of attending the world junior figure-skating championships in St. John, N.B., in December. Pearson, meanwhile, says her goal is to earn a black belt before the year is out. After that? "I really want to go to the Olympics," she says, perhaps in the year 2000. For now, both she and Rémille have their hands full with a rigorous schedule—a timetable on which young dreams are built.

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Carleton's president with student, teaching in the fast lane

Surfing at high speed

A more powerful Internet is quickly approaching

Perhaps the lectures at Ottawa's Carleton University were just not ready for prime time. As any fan, the university learned a harsh lesson about the television business last December when Toronto-based Rogers Cable Systems announced plans to pull the plug on Ottawa-area educational channel to make room on the dial for a new commercial station. Although the 60 accredited courses offered by the university on the cable channel were never a huge ratings success, they attracted more than 5,000 correspondence students a year and generated as much as \$1.5 million annually in tuition fees. The university has applied to the Canadian Radio-television and Telecommunications Commission for its own broadcast licence, but regardless of the outcome, Carleton is determined that the show must go on.

Next time, though, it might not be TV. Instead, Carleton is hoping to jump aboard CA'net II, a faster, more powerful offshoot of the Internet that, among other advantages, will have the capacity to carry high-quality audio and video transmission. The university plans to begin live broadcasts of four courses over CA'net II on a trial basis in the coming weeks. "If that proves successful, then we can possibly start including all 60 courses in this way," says Doug

media information of very high quality, comparable to broadcast," says Andrew Bryning, president and chief executive officer of CANARIE Inc., a nonprofit company that is helping to develop the new network.

The organizers of CA'net II are among an increasing number of groups around the world whose goal is to create new information highways that are faster and more reliable than today's Internet. Last October, 36 U.S. universities—frazzled by Internet slowdowns during peak hours and frequent service interruptions—announced a plan to connect to one another through a new network of high-speed cables, dubbed Internet II. In a separate initiative, U.S. President Bill Clinton pledged last fall to contribute at least \$100 million annually for the next five years to the creation of the so-called next generation Internet, which would be 1,000 times faster than today's Internet and extracted exclusively for computer researchers.

North of the border, some Internet watchers warn that Canada is in danger of falling behind the United States in the development of faster, more sophisticated computer networks. Right now, there is nothing to stop U.S.-based services from eventually dominating the online world in Canada, says Bill St. Armand, CANARIE's director of network projects. "The Internet is a wide-open ball park, and anybody can come in and offer these services," he says. "If we don't do this first, you can be damn sure the Americans will be up here real quick and fast for us."

To keep that from happening, CANARIE is recruiting universities, businesses and research groups to help develop CA'net II. About 100 participants from organizations including regional telephone companies and other major telecommunications carriers recently attended a workshop in Toronto to hammer out their roles in the creation of CA'net II. Beginning in early next month, the new network will go into operation in universities and specialized research institutes. Once it is fully established—probably within two to three years—CANARIE expects to turn the network over to one or more telecommunications companies, which will charge individuals or corporations for the extra capacity and speed offered by CA'net II. In effect, the Internet would then become a two-tiered system, with a basic service that is accessible to everyone and a faster, more powerful service for those who are prepared to pay extra. "They'll both be interconnected, but companies will buy business-class so they know that their information will get through," says St. Armand. Eventually those companies and other users will gain access to an inter-network audience as similar high-capacity networks around the globe are linked together. By then, Carleton University's faculty may find themselves lecturing to students around the world.

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Monkey business

In a development with implications for research in Alzheimer's, depression, AIDS and other illnesses, researchers in Oregon have produced two rhesus monkeys using a process similar to the sheep-cloning breakthrough announced in Scotland late last month. "I think it's going to make for much, much better science, and much better experiments," said M. Susan Smith, director of the Oregon Regional Primate Research Center in Beaverton, where the research took place. The procedure clears the way for producing genetically identical monkeys, said Donald Wolf, a senior scientist at the centre. Rhesus monkeys are widely used in health research. Identical animals would be a boon because, by eliminating genetic makeup as a variable, scientists could be more confident of their research results. The Oregon team harvested 18 monkeys from the cell lines taken from an embryo. The Scottish cloning team produced a healthy lamb from the genetic information in an older cell of an adult ewe.



The rhesus primates
research implications

Newborns and pain

A Canadian study published in the British medical journal *Lancet* suggests that newborns should receive painkillers before circumcision and other surgery. A research team at the University of Toronto found that cutting away the foreskin without an anesthetic made the infants sensitive to pain, a condition that was still evident when they received routine vaccinations six months later. The study looked at infant boys in three groups: 32 uncircumcised, 25 given a topical anesthetic cream to deaden the tip of the foreskin, and 29 circumcised without a painkiller. The infants who were circumcised without a pain reliever cried for twice as long as the circumcised boys after receiving the pain. Dr. Robert Keaton, a professor of pediatrics, pharmacology and medicine who oversaw the study, says the babies who received a topical anesthetic before surgery suffered from the other groups. Circumcision, performed on about half of Canadian boys, is the most common of the procedures routinely done on newborns, with minimal or no pain relief. The study shows that it is not vital to deaden there is no need for an anesthetic because babies only feel the pain briefly, says graduate student Anna Tardivo, the principal researcher on the project. "We don't treat any other people of any age group that way," she adds. "We even take better care to manage the pain of animals."

The stay-thin gene

US and French researchers have discovered what appears to be an important clue to understanding why some people pile on the pounds while others gain no weight when they consume similar quantities. The key is a gene, called UCP2, that encodes a protein that appears to be responsible for burning excess calories in surplus body heat, rather than storing them as fat. "Having the gene activated is like running a heater off your

car's gas tank," says psychologist Richard Serrif of Duke University in Durham, N.C., co-author of a study published last week in *Nature Genetics*. "You use up more fat." Researchers at Duke, the French Centre National de Recherche Scientifique, looked at mice that gained little weight on a high-fat diet and others that "blew up like balloons," Serrif says. Concluding that the difference lies in the activity level of the UCP2 gene, the researchers are now focusing on development of a drug to help control weight.

Women's deaths

Smoking has resulted in a dramatic increase in deaths of Canadian women from lung cancer, with rates now four times what they were in 1970, the Canadian Cancer Society reports. After reviewing statistics compiled by the society, Health Canada and other cancer groups, the society concluded: "The encouraging news is that lung cancer incidence and mortality rates among Canadian women continue their rapid increase." In a positive development, more women are surviving breast cancer because of early detection. And among them, the overall cancer mortality rate declined slightly after reaching a peak in 1988.

Low-tar cancer

A Swiss study released by the American Cancer Society concludes that low-tar, filtered cigarettes do not reduce the danger of lung cancer, but instead are responsible for a different type of the disease that reaches deeper into the lung. The study, conducted at the University of Lausanne, confirms a trend already noted in the United States: Squamous cell carcinoma and small cell carcinoma, which attack the main trunks of the lungs, are the two types of lung cancer most strongly linked to cigarette smoking. But as people have switched to "light" low-tar cigarettes, adenocarcinoma—which attacks the tiny outer branches of the lungs—is becoming more prevalent. The study of 7,422 cancer cases in Switzerland between 1974 and 1994 found that the incidence of adenocarcinoma more than doubled in that time.

A tumor trigger

British cancer researchers say medical kinds of treatments could emerge from a new understanding, announced last week, of how cells grow into uncontrollable tumors. "This discovery could have implications for new therapies and diagnosis," said Dr. Noel Keith, who headed the research at Glasgow University. The researchers said they found a gene in cancer cells that switches on an enzyme that, in turn, stops the natural process of cell division off. That process permits the rapid growth of tumors, but in cancer, the researchers say, the effect is more adverse. "This discovery fits like a glove with what we already understand about cancer development," said Gordon McVie, director of the British Cancer Research Campaign.



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A new, Black Citizen

The Southam empire unveils its Ottawa showpiece

BY MARCI McDONALD

In an attempt to counter the hype and hoopla surrounding the launch of Conrad Black's revamped Ottawa Citizen last week, an underdog rival, The Ottawa Sun, unleashed a pointed promotional stunt. Offering a \$500 prize and a customized-made seaford shirt, the talkfest invited readers to find a daily "Black spot"—a photo of the loquacious, 52-year-old press lord—hidden inside. The contest may have been, as Sun publisher John Pagan puts it, "a knock at the new self-important Citizen." But it also underscored the polarization currently preoccupying the capital and the country's media circles, trying to detect Black's influence in the daily that he has chosen to transform into the showpiece of the 58-paper empire he consolidated last May when he was controlling interests in Southam Inc.

On the newspaper's website in which the renamed Citizen arrived at the footsteps of its 140,000 subscribers, Neil Reynolds, the broadsheet's editor, vowed when Black had picked to direct the metamorphosis, laid out that agenda. In a bid for political clout—out to maximize publishing rights on the Ottawa membership of The Globe and Mail—Reynolds claimed to test an intention that "to deliver the most authoritative national news report in the country." If his goal still appeared distinctly elusive at the end of a week, no one disagreed that he had pulled off a makeover that was as radically ideological as it was complete. With an updated logo on a century-old type, expanded coverage and an infusion of \$2 million in new cash, Reynolds's redesign packed a provocative one-two punch. While more assertive and substantial, it left some members of the government, clinging to their power breakfasts. An insipid-sounding title—*the new editorial page team*—was of when he had recruited from "There's no question that this is a conserva-



Reynolds, the editor, bristles at suggestions of propagandist meddling.

tionist's rightwing Fraser Institute—of friend a startling suggestion from Citizen, the paper argued, ought to think about stepping down before he were out his welcome. No sooner had that proposal hit the newsstands than press, congressional aides were spreading word their contacts at the Citizen were equally miffed that an exclusive interview with Chrétien had been buried on page 3. Others noted that editorial page editor William Watson, a conservative economist from McGill University in Montreal who has taken a substantial to play that role, argued in Black's employ had turned down a traditional post-budget briefing from minister of industry John Manley. Such regard for capital ritual produced dark merriment above "these guys' disdain for government," in one former Liberal insider's words—a charge at which Reynolds scoffed.

"There's no question that this is a conserva-

tive editorial board," he says, fresh from conceding that his own politics reflect Black's unashamed rightward move. But he's not so wedded to that, he promises, with no time for mere intransigence. As for party line dispense at their press display, he retorts, "If they wanted to be in page 3, that should say more."

In media circles, where Reynolds's maverick style and tenacity for winning National Newspaper Award has earned him cult status, he is再造. Citizen was greeted with greater enthusiasm. At Ottawa's Carleton University, director of journalism Lindsay Crystal hailed Reynolds for breaking the prevailing trend of sacraficing thoughtful verbiage to visual gaudiness. "One of the nice things is that it's not USA Today," says Crystal, "which everybody has been doing in one form or another to attract the TV generation."

At the Kingston Whig Standard and The Saint John Telegraph Journal, where he spent the past four years, Reynolds has so far been careful to leave the paper's conservative identity well enough alone. Kathleen O'Hanrahan, a self-described left wing journalist who last fall publicly denounced Black's "stranglehold" on 41 per cent of the nation's dailies, was disconcerted last week when the Citizen ran one after another article of commentary attacking the government's policies.

Now, O'Hanrahan worries that she served as the day's "token left," lending credibility to the controversial behind-the-scenes Chicago-based Hollinger International Inc.

To critics such as former Citizen editor-in-chief James Trotter, who quit in October just before he was about to be pushed Black's imprint on Reynolds's paper already seems clear. Pointing to a frontpage spread in starting 15-year-old *The Ottawa Sun* (Southam Inc., which had shopped a political meeting across), Trotter argues that the paper has since very borrowed the man perfected in Hollinger's British weekly, *The Daily Telegraph*, which he dares "dis and analysis."

But Trotter sees a more ominous threat in the paper's increasing copy from the Telegraph's wire service. In fact, Southam's manager decided to close two more foreign bureaus this year—leaving its once prestigious, eight-bureau news service with only

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three outposts abroad—is based largely on plans to use the British paper's own national network. "It's very much an attempt to create a Canadian Telegraph," warns Trotter, now Ottawa editor of *The Toronto Star*. "What you're seeing here is the re-colonization of Canadian journalism."

Still, those familiar with Reynolds's 25 years at the helm of the *Wing-Standard* consider his exemplarity in that prospect unlikely. Unlike by that paper's modest circulation of 40,000, he was the remarkable

family-owned daily a windfall of rewards and universal notice by dispatching a reporter and photographer to Afghanistan in 1986, where they broke the story of five Soviet army deserters. Reynolds professes puzzlement at why other editors of small-town papers have not shown the same shapeliness. "I don't understand why in this country there isn't more recognition of greatness," he says.

That shokiness he attributes to his coming of age in Kingston, the confounded son of a Free Methodist minister. And at 56, the la-

ther of three—including two grown children from his first marriage—retires a modest man that he betrayed in his first meeting with Givens' widow last fall. Quoting H. L. Mencken, he assured them, "There's a difference in all of us." According to one at least, who asked for anonymity, that in practice "left half of us, like me, blessed out and the other half rolling their eyes because it seemed so droll."

In fact, ever since Reynolds arrived at *Wing*, a preoccupied figure whose shy new kept him confined to his glass-veiled editor's office—and earned him the moniker "Bubble Boy"—the Ottawa newsroom has been rife with turmoil and mistrust. On one side are the 10 newly hired Reynolds-loyalists, some imported from his previous editorships. They include *Wing Standard* veteran David Warren, the long-time editor of Toronto's now-defunct *Advertiser*, who will edit the paper's Sunday broadsheet. The Ottawa *Wing* (which debuted with a \$600-word cover story on the threat of mosquito-borne diseases by Reynolds's second wife, Dennis Jacob) on the other side are wary Ottawa staffers in at least one case, a desolate hole filled a story by one of the editor's favorites only to find it in the paper the next morning.

Fiercely colleagues point out that tension may typify Reynolds's management style. During five years as an assistant city editor at the *Wing-Standard* in the mid-1980s, "I could tell you have many city editors we had," says Catherine McKeen, now an associate professor of journalism at Ottawa's Carleton University. "I'd come home at night and I'd think, 'Now if we could only get through this crassness, things will settle down. But I had only realized that this level of chaos was the way things were with Nick.'

Still, McKeen remains an admirer. And she lobbies those who see him carrying Conrad Black's political water. In Kingston, some of Reynolds's closest colleagues were unapologetic admirers. And at St. John's, he earned unsavory accolades for editorial independence, including a car on loan to a gas station owned by his billionaire bosses, the Irving, gas bar fire in 1994. But stated more bluntly, he was promoted to publisher. McKeen argues that, "Conrad's agenda is more complex than just getting right wing views into print. I think he's trying to counter the view that his papers are bad," she says, "and so he'll have a fancy job in Ottawa to feed off the critics."

Eric Black has made a shrewd choice in Reynolds, who bridges at management of pastoral, if not filling but clearly shares his editor's editorial views. A former New Democrat, he counts in use of his life's "sixth achievement" his ill-fated 1982 bid in head of the country's Remember Libertarian party. Still, Reynolds remains wryly circumspect when asked if he would call Black a fellow Libertarian. "I wouldn't call Mr. Black anything," he says, "but Mr. Black."

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A visual feast from the East

Film and TV take off in the Atlantic region

BY BRIAN BERGMAN

The abandoned fish plant sits on a picturesque point of St. Margaret's Bay, its peeling red-shingles, rotting boardwalks and broken end walls testifying to the many years that have passed since it served as part of a thriving fishing community. On the wharf side of the building is a large sign bearing a nautical wheel and the words "Black Harbour, NS." But there's no such place as Black Harbour, this is simply the backdrop for the CBC series that recently finished shooting near the town of Hubbards, 50 km west of Halifax. That bit of Hollywood-style fibery does not dare the likes of Marcel Bruneau, manager of the local Irving gas station. Business became bust after cast and crew of *Black Harbour* descended last fall. Bruneau even appeared briefly in one of the early episodes, playing himself. And come the summer, he and many other Hubbards residents are hoping that the series will attract curious tourists to their corner of Nova Scotia's south shore. "Maybe some people will be a little nosy," says Bruneau, "but come and check us out."

Hubbards residents are not the only Atlantic Canadians looking in the reflected glory of the kiddy latte *Black Harbour*—which completes its current 13-episode run this week and begins shooting a second season in July—is one of three new nationally televised series set and shot in Atlantic Canada. Last fall the CBC aired another six episodes of *Gulliver*, a half-hour series loosely revolving around the exploits of a hapless St. John's oil driller. Another seven *Gulliver* episodes have just been shot and will be aired later this year. Production also just finished near Summerside, PEI, on the first, 13-episode season of *Emily of New Moon*, the latest dramatic series drawn from Lucy Maud Montgomery's novels about orphaned girls. Vancouver-based broadcaster WFCM is set to air the series on its stations across the country starting this fall.

In addition to the new programs, long-in-reverse *Newfoundlanders*—Marty Walsh, Cathy Jones, Rick Mercer and Greg Thompson—continues to create one of the nation's top-rated TV shows, the now-sane *The Hour* (11 a.m.-12:30 m., now in its fourth season). Produced by Halifax's Salter Street Films, *The Hour* is watched by more Cana-



Bruce Campbell (left), Wynona Ryder, Alex Carter in *Black Harbour*: referring to our roots

dians (up to 1.2 million) on many Monday nights than now run into the CBC's flagship news programs, *The National*, a half hour later. Atlantic Canada has also become a favored location for a small but growing number of feature films, including such Hollywood blockbusters as the critically lauded *Dawn of the Dead*, the *Sawyer Letter* and the slightly more acclaimed *Deliver Us from Evil* starring Jennifer Jason Leigh.

All told, Atlantic Canada now boasts a lively television and film industry that brings with it not only much-needed dollars and jobs, but some hard-won respect and recognition for local producers and directors who have earned the pull of such media centers as Los Angeles, New York City and Toronto. "Years ago the thing you had to do was leave," says Michael Davison, who, along with his brother Paul, founded Salter Street

Films in 1979. "Everyone left. Now, you can be creative and successful here."

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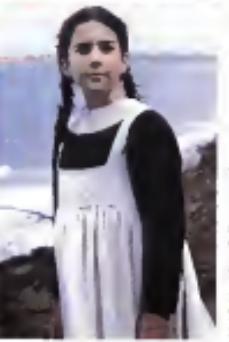
SHOW BUSINESS



■ *Artist with Doctor Premier Mike Morawski* (below) in *Emily by the Sea*, the Avery production that's been a hit in studios and John

Communications Inc., creators of the hit CBC children's series *Thunder Tropics*, and Images Ltd., co-producer of the acclaimed 1990 film *Margrave's Mission*, took an eccentric Cape Bayon coal miner's wife played by Helena Bonham Carter for leading the pack in *Salter Street*, which scored its first hit with *Caledon*, a half-hour British comedy show that ended a seven-year run on CBC in 1992. Now, in addition to *The Bear*, *Salter Street* is co-producing with Cine-Plus of Montreal *Emily of New Moon*, of which a second set of 13 episodes will be shot this summer. Other projects include *LUCK*, *The Dark Room* (a computer-generated sci-fi series that has run on Toronto's City TV as well as the U.S. channel Showtime), and *Major Crash*, a police mini-series to be broadcast this fall on CBC—and one in which Halifax marionettes in Toronto. For the Bonham Carters, it is all a sweet distance from the early days when one federal film bureaucrat rejected their funding application, explaining that the brothers' version of *now from fibbia* was "beyond their evidence of a lack of seriousness" as filmmakers.

The Nova Scotia experience has not gone unnoticed in the rest of Canada. Canada's few brassneck governments established their own film development corporation last summer and has already helped finance one small-budget feature, *The Sweet Life of Herman*, which wrapped up shooting last week near Madison, Newfoundland. It used just last month, announcing that it



had reached an agreement with Ottawa to jointly fund a similar body aimed at luring filmmakers to the province.

While Prince Edward Island has so far failed to attract the provincial government's \$1.9 million to the producers of *Emily of New Moon*, Berni Wood, film commissioner for Enterprise PEI, a Crown corporation, explains that once the series is on, "our local leaders will be incorporation into neighbouring tourist structures—including Lucy Maud Montgomery's original house." Wood adds that, after seeing two other TV series inspired by the island author's work, *Anne of Green Gables* and *Randi To Anakwa*, both shot in Ontario, "a lot of people would like to see Lucy Maud brought home." *Emily* may well prove a tourist draw as its professors have sprinkled some enticing footage of rural Prince Edward Island in the backdrop to the story of an 11-year-old girl—played by 12-year-old Martha MacIsaac of Charlottetown—who grows up to be an author.

Beyond the off-the-shelf success, the recent explosion in East Coast productions is giving TV viewers some fresh insights into Atlantic Canadian sensibilities. *Black Harbour*, which has attracted an average of 800,000 viewers each week, centers on the story of Katherine Hubbard (Debrah Jenkins), who returns to her native Nova Scotia after her mother takes ill. Katherine has just spent several years in Los Angeles as a successful restaurateur and wife of a movie director whose career is now on the skids. The story line gives the show's writers plenty of scope to deal with two continue. Atlantic themes—the struggle to return to one's roots and the suspicion with which residents sometimes view people from "away." For Toronto-based Jenkins, 36, best known for her starring role in the 1989 feature *By the Moon*, it is also something of a homecoming. Jenkins spent part of her childhood in Halifax and later returned to attend Dalhousie University. Now the mother of one-year-old Sadie, Jenkins is considering moving to the East yet again. "This place has made a big, big impression on me," she said during a recent interview on location near Hubbard's. "It has a strong pull."

In keeping with its title, *Black Harbour* provides an often bleak take on its characters and setting. Viewers were able to find a much more whimsical slice of East Coast life on *Galgate*, the first continuously broadcast TV series to originate in Newfoundland. The show, which has an average audience of 500,000, unfolded through the eyes of Calvin Pope (Bryan Hemmings), a hulking, single-parent car driver who will live with his chain-smoking mother, Angora (Janice Spragg). The series features a number of oddball characters, including Pope's boss, Pi Parsons (Mike Wade), a senior operator from the village of Dildo who won the cab company in a bet, and Bert and Russell (Phil Dwan and Brian Bear), two inseparable party-taker bachelors who think each other's often elliptical sentences.

A member of a Toronto focus group that screened the show last year called *Galgate* "a cross between *Generation Street* and *Tom Paine*." It is a description that the creator of *Galgate*, St. John's native Bill McFarlane, readily accepts. "Like *Generation Street*, we tried to build a neighborhood where there's a certain comfort with the characters," he says. "But at the same time, there's an element of weirdness that goes with it and gives the show its edge." Whether weird, funny, bleak or idyllic, Atlantic Canadian stories are finally making their way to the screen. □

Stage mother, stage son

BY E. KAYE FULTON

Perley Douglas leans across the couch and, in the inevitable soliloquy of every mother with her son, flicks a piece of hair off Keifer Sutherland's shoulder. It is a simple gesture of both affection and disaffection. And when it happens, Sutherland, in full rhetoric and flight about the lies and deals that have led the two of them to *The Glass Menagerie* and the stark backstage room in an Ottawa theatre, quickly releases. "This is the first time we have been able to take the distance of a relationship with a mother and a son and actually work together on an equal part," he says. "As actors, I'm just really listening to her voice and desires, and she is to me. But at home and after work, we're comfortably side-by-side." Sutherland then turns and paces at Douglas, who smiles as they are simultaneously struck by the same thought. "I don't think," says son to mother, "that a lot of parents and children ever get in it first."

Douglas, 62, and Sutherland, 30, could not have chosen a ruder vehicle to display their shared craft than Tennessee Williams's bitter and biographical work, *American*, of the modern stage. *The Glass Menagerie* is the poignant tale of unmetropolitan, dysfunctional Southern family—the prettier mother, Amanda Wingfield, who left her dodecagon son, Tom, and her disabled daughter, Laura, struggling to disappear, if not escape, a meager existence in a dingy St. Louis tenement. Since the play's debut in instant acclaim in 1945, a string of accomplished actors has attempted to weave the gossamer Wingfield web of what Tom calls "truth in the pleasant disguise of illusion." In its latest incarnation, the drama—which opened last week at the National Arts Centre in Ottawa and moves to Toronto's Royal Alexandra Theatre from March 26 to May 3—has added the stage roar alluring a real-life mother and son portraying Amanda and Tom, the first instance of such casting in a major production of the play. Anticipating the natural question that arises from that perfect synchronicity, Sutherland, an eye-candy seduced in the fashion of every Hollywood wry and hot dog, grins. "This is not funny," he drawls. "This is not an attempt to cheat and really show you our relationship."

Maybe so, but when it comes to the older Douglas-Sutherland clan, truth is every bit as strange as her son. Douglas, a veteran of Canadian theatre, has another incarnation behind her as a 1980s icon of the political stage, the feisty daughter of New Democratic Party co-founder and first leader Tom. Douglas who not only benefitted from the social Black Panthers in California, but led them hungry children. During a five-year marriage to Canadian actor Donald Sutherland, that began in 1968, Douglas steered her breed—cidget son, Tom (the product of a previous marriage),



Sutherland
Douglas: her acting
in *Virginia Woolf*
that inspired him

A classic reunites two members of a politics-acting dynasty

Kiefer and his twin sister Rachel—from the type and exaggerated beauty of Beverly Hills to the explosive front lines of the American garment movement. To the children, the world of *Tom* was almost as familiar as the aroma of popcorn by the age of 6. Keifer had marched in his first elementary school's 4th-grade Veterans Day parade, donning a broken leg. "Our mother's policies were actually aimed at us," he says. "The one thing the three of us never challenged," recalls Sutherland. "From an early age, we knew we was right."

But it is the gland of Hollywood, not politics, that draws the once-odd couple's reconnection in a musical career started by the earliest stream of silver black screen that whole world leaders around the globe jealously covet. As the various stages of life are, Douglas, a former member of the National Arts Centre repertory who now lives in Toronto, has played so many character roles she is virtually recognizable on the streets of Disney. Not so her lovable son. To the older set, there is the come resemblance between Kiefer and his now-elderly ex-wife, now widow, father, Donald. Those same lean, long features that can shift from happy innocence

to deadly menace in an instant. But to the younger crowd, he is the Canadian delegate to Hollywood's 1980s love pack, the snubby bally of *Stand By Me* and *Young Guns* who, in real life, captured Julia Roberts's heart, then lost her at the altar.

Since he arrived in Ottawa in early February, nearly everyone has had a firstlook, or a one-day-early-regognition, Kiefer surging "There's a Keifer with a heart at the *Marquette Park* at closing time, or writing his name in the lobby of every last food joint within sight of Parliament Hill. There he is again, wistful and unrecovered; bare hands adorned in his pockets, strolling across the frozen canal one sunny afternoon while a CBC television crew films a piece on his mother's *The Prime of Shirley Douglas*. It does not matter that Sutherland, who entered Toronto native and former model Kelly Winn as a 10-year-old actress lost, June, now leads a much more sedate private life on his Los Angeles-area home. No more pool balls, no more unceasing carousing. The father of three, this 50-year-old daughter with first wife Cecilia Kitch and Winn's two sons, 8 and 10, crazy and make Marlene, but he carries a portable smiley with a hook in electric line. Says Douglas: "Keifer is, let's say, branching out."

His connection to the Ottawa area is deeper than most people would suspect. In his early teens, Sutherland languished for one summer at a prep school outside Ottawa, and when his grandparents were alive, he spent at least two weeks of six summers at his family cottage in nearby Waterford, a place that Douglas only just put in her will after her mother, June, died. When *The House of Commons* was sitting in the 1970s, Keifer and Rachel, now Toronto-based television producer, would watch their impaled grandfather from the public gallery. And Sutherland recalls how Stanley Knowles, the former NDP Winnipeg MP and, as Douglas's grandfather, publisher, still a close friend, "always used to bring me a hotdog, which was kind of against the rules."

In a way, Keifer began his career in Ottawa. In 1980, he was a

14-year-old blossoming rebel, intent on a profession in hockey, but for stills as a guitar player in a rock 'n' roll band, when he slipped into the audience at the National Arts Centre to watch his mother transform herself into the blower, issuing puffs of Marsha an Edward Albee's *Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?* Naturally, whenever his parents re-formed, Keifer, with a practiced critical eye, fixed those stills like flies, gazed eyes or bad lighting. Walking through the first act on this night, though, he forgot about the mechanics of stage. It won't even be his mother on stage. It was Marsha. "I sat in the theatre for a good 20 to 30 minutes after everybody had gone. I just kept staring at that stage," he recalls. For the first time, he experienced the magic space between reality and illusion. "I always figured out that this void that I have nothing about—that gap between my mother and the character she plays—was what was really cool about being an actor. And I wanted to learn about it."

That is partly why Sutherland cleared his calendar 38 months ago when his mother received a diagnosis on her bone marrow machine that the NSA planned to stage *The Glass Menagerie* and, when she was back for the last notes. After a series of back-to-back illness, burned out and restless, he had turned to dancing with the cable-TV chat-roundabout *Last Lapline* and, more recently, the romance *Trick or Companion*, another TV movie. Between acting work as a Ka Ka Ka Kan leader in *A Tree To Kill With Sander Pollock* and a role in the serial thriller *Dark City* with William Hurt, Sutherland specifically set aside special projects, a decision that allowed his grandfather and the birth of *Medicare*. But there was something missing. "You make films at a breakneck pace and after 35 of them you start to develop shorts," says Sutherland. "In that case, you are having your skills but you are also whittling away at the beautiful set of developing a character." As he watched, the first day of rehearsals with his mother in Ottawa was a rediscovery of art. "The further we get, gotten into it," adds Sutherland. "The more complicated the relationship between Amanda and Tom has become."

An equal moment in the play, Amanda comes up behind Tom and comfortably rests her hand on his shoulder. Sutherland says the first time she did it, he realized that "I've come this far alone. If I do it now, there would have been an instant separation." Douglas, watching her son, remembers: "Oh really?" Sutherland shakes his head. "It was amazing." A slow smile spreads across his face. "I actually stayed out and acknowledged that I'm entirely at home." □



This Glass half empty

THE GLASS MENAGERIE
By Tennessee Williams
Directed by Ned Mann

elegantly exposed the fragility of a spirit caught between hopeless dreams and harsh truths.

Veteran Stage director Ned Mann, considering the Mississippi-pubescent winter's east and west coast repetitions by the time of his death in 1983, he may not have real authority true to his word. But a grubby oldie of the more than 25 hundred plays that followed quite so

as to be true. But it is doubtful that Williams intended his alter ego to be such a hunk. Sutherland has brought not only Hollywood allure but also perhaps a bit too much Hollywood old juice to the production still, he and Douglas have real chemistry, as do Douglas and Greenwood, who plays her daughter in *TV's* *Alleged At My Best*. As the show continues, it may acquire some of the decisiveness of Laura's proud collection of figurines. But for now, this *Glass Menagerie* is etched with blood.

When *The Glass Menagerie* opened on Broadway in 1945, Tennessee Williams' belief that the bifurcated monologue still had the last successful stage debut, would be the last "nice thing" he would write about

Allan Fotheringham



***The Newsroom* is too vicious to survive at the CBC**

As someone who essentially doesn't like television—reading and tennis are better—your faithful agent doesn't watch much of it, aside from the usual Saturday afternoon *golden* look and the mandatory *golden* file.

As Newton Minow, the Washington regulator of broadcasting, said 30 years ago, TV is "a wasteland" and it has hardly changed today. The problem with TV is that the dangers that are very good are so scarce that one has to make an extremely disciplined effort to find out just which hour on some specific day of the week is required and then to plan your time around it. Life is too short for that nonsense.

This brings us around to the phenomenon of *The Newsroom*, CBS's new class satire of the CBC that appears—now actually know it—at 9:30 on Monday nights. This is a nightmare (or that new-TV watcher) because it is the first program since *This Hour Has Seven Days* I try not to miss. There's self-indulgent, or flight, because it's about the black art of what we're laughing at in journalism and it has a cult following—probably all TV journalists

This Hour Has Seven Days is a spin-off of the BBC's sensational *That Was the Week That Was* made natural heroes back in the 1950s of Patrick Wilson and the previously unknown Montreal historian Léonard LaFave. LaFave was celebrated for crying as an end, more famously, for the night when in the introductions couldn't remember his own name. (A Nestle quartet has now stepped into another role by calling their show *This Hour Has 22 Minutes*.)

agent, was one of the *big four* accountants in the morning in most offices in the land. Did you see that? ¹⁹ was the question of the debate: it was brilliant, it was controversial, it raised not only questions in Question Period every Monday but a national inquiry and, if being held, the CRTC of course liked it.

it, stars in it and you can tell how much he hates the CBC by how he so unerringly depicts it.

Let's put it this way: As someone who has worked somewhat casually—and perhaps more aptly, carelessly—in TV and at the CBC, I know every person in the cast, right down to the make-up girl. I've met them all. Fridleifson is a very vicious man and I love him.

He displays the archetypal picture-perfect, all teeth and hair with an ego the size of a barn door. On Daryl Duke's innovative CKU (U) in Vancouver—along with the transplanted LePierre and the lovely Paul Shandie!—we had such a stud. We called him Steve Sunshine. I hear he is now selling cars in Alberta.

OKLAHOMA's casting is so good that the little interloper (dressed of course in a lumberjack shirt, the usual CBC garb) is played by Tanya Allen who is so good that she has just appeared as the cover girl in *Housewife's*

Blakeman himself, a natural's satire of every CBC executive I have ever met, is a wretched, impudent, manipulative, a bundle of bad body language who fears for his job and would spike his grandmother's sliding at second base.

Robert Hutchins, the famed academic who took over the University at Chicago in 1929 and lasted as president until 1945, once told students that he had *unintentionally* discovered what was most progressive [at an American university]: set the students parking for the faculty and lost half for the students. He succeeded in America by *dominating* the football team.) Pfeifferman knows his stuff. One whole program was devoted to helping over 400 get a better parking stall on the CBC underground garage.

He goes into a trauma—CSC number—when he discovers that they have removed his executive couch from his office, a sure sign of a demotion to come. He stages his own staff behind their backs while the irresistibly cute intern Tanya looks at him and, with a wistful expression, concludes that her boss is in an affair.

I'm waiting for the *Frikkleman/Nousorous* episode—sure to come—on whatever CBC jerk had the grace, after Betty Kennedy and Pierre Bertrand had failed in *Front Page Quiz*! for three decades, not to offer them a farewell lunch at even a lousy place of chameleons. Voice-mail was easier. We fully expect that *Frikkleman/Nousorous*—crying too close to the bone—won't be around next season. There's a rumor that the *Wanigan* know their audience to turn his viciousness into a talk show CBC executives have been

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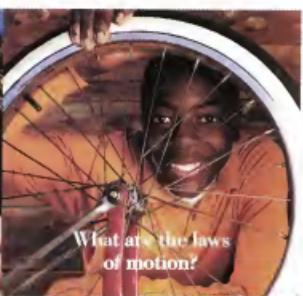
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